



Isletor, Mattilo
Sweden June 23

With John McEnroe walked on Centre Court to begin the defence of his Wimbledon title last year. I was playing tennis too. But the game was not in front of fourteen thousand people.

I was a more simple knock up with my friend Lennart Bergelin and my sister Mariana. And it took place in our summer home on the island just off the east coast of Sweden. For the rest of the tournament, we shall spend the time playing tennis and watching Wimbledon on television—and watching desperately that I was there.

I had depressed about not being at Wimbledon and angry and frustrated at the circumstances which caused my exclusion. My argument was that I had won Wimbledon itself.

I had respect for the tournament and for the place—but with regard to the Grand Prix rules I felt obliged to

accept the fact that I was not a winner of Wimbledon. I did think I might have been a winner. I had set myself a goal for this year. I was determined to the atmosphere of Wimbledon to my agent. All my coach and I thought Wimbledon would change their minds and let me play.

They can say I have lost my chance. But it is not strong. I have had no less than more opportunities than ever I want to be the number one. One again and I believe in it. I have to Wimbledon and I would like five

times to look from tennis has done me a tremendous amount of good. I have been a very happy man. I don't forget I have been in the number one for at least four hours since I was a kid of

I have to be with my family. I have to be with my grandparents. I have to be with the U.S. I have to be with the right man. I have to be with the right man. I have to be with the right man. This will get me

I thought Wimbledon would let me play

BJORN BORG writes of his comeback plans

sharp for what I intend to be a major assault on the big championship, from January.

I know the public still expect me to win and I shall show them I am no has been. Not only do I believe I can win Wimbledon again next year, but I shall go that out for the U.S. title too. That is my dream for it is a championship I have never won.

This has been a very disappointing year for me and missing Wimbledon is a big blow because it is my favourite of all the tournaments. I do not go along with those players who talk aggressively about boycotts and demand changes. To me Wimbledon is something special. I am a great traditionalist myself and I believe in all that Wimbledon stands for, right

I have five Wimbledon titles and I would like five more

down to the strawberries and cream. Please leave it alone.

Sure, the young girls made life a little difficult in my early years when they crowded the outside courts. But, I have been coming to Wimbledon since 1971 and you can't help but form great attachments to the place.

It is a new experience for me to sit and watch the other players sweat and toil and if I am cheering for anyone it is for my young countryman Mats Wilander. While I do not think he can win this year, I am convinced he is a future Wimbledon champion. He had a reasonably good Wimbledon last year, reaching the third round, and I think he will do much better this time, causing one or two upsets along the way. He certainly deserves his seeding. His victory in Paris, in the French Championships, was quite unbelievable. I sent him a telegram saying "congratulations Mats, and many thanks for keeping the French title for Sweden."

Tennis has been my whole life and to a large degree it still is. I do not have many other interests—a little light reading and some music, maybe—but even when I am not playing in a tournament I practise every day, relentlessly.

There is no question that I can find

the motivation to win the big tournaments again. I am looking forward already to hearing the cheers of the crowds. It is something that gets into your blood, something you miss terribly.

Not being at Wimbledon this year will make me more determined to be there next year as the champion. I have only one goal in life and that is to be the best again.

As for my forecast, Jimmy Connors is the man I think could surprise everyone this year and win Wimbledon. Sure I know John McEnroe is the favourite, but Connors is a great competitor and plays well at Wimbledon. He has defeated McEnroe a few times, including recently at Queen's Club. Connors has not won the championship since 1974 and he wants to prove to people that he can still win Wimbledon.

This is not sour grapes because John beat me last year. We may not be the best of friends, but we are friends. Sometimes he is difficult on court, but off court he is a different person. People look at him and just think he is a bad guy, but that's not true. He is a very nice person, really. John just gets a little more nervous than other players and he needs to show his emotions.

I always have more problems playing against McEnroe than Connors. To beat McEnroe you need to play really well from the beginning. You have to serve well, return well and everything has to work in your game. Connors plays like me. He stands back and waits for the right shot. Even if you don't play as well in the beginning against him you can often find your form later in the match. Even so, I just have a feeling this could be Connors' year.

There could be a lot of upsets this year, but I do not think anyone will stop McEnroe and Connors or Martina Navratilova in the women's championship.

With regard to Mariana and me, the rumour mongers have done their best this year to wreck our marriage. But they have been unlucky. They will not separate us.

If we had taken seriously all the muck that has been written, we probably would both be in the lunatic asylum by now. But we accept that this sort of rubbish is something we must live with. We are used to it.

What did upset us most of all were those stories of Mariana's illness, that she had cancer. This simply was not true. In January she had two large kidney stones removed and when she went for a check-up in a Stockholm clinic she was told that everything was perfectly okay. We are happier now than we have ever been.

Former Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg will be writing two more exclusive articles for SPORTSWORLD. Book your copies now.

"DESERTER" shouted a man from the boundary line as Derek Pringle came out to bat for the Combined Universities against India. The venue was Cambridge, the university the new England cap belongs to, and the disparaging remarks emanated from a faculty member, whose ire resulted from Pringle's choice of playing in the second Test at Old Trafford instead of the Varsity match with Oxford.

People in India might deem it foolish on the part of the professor to condemn a cricketer who has opted for his country rather than his university. What, after all, can be more honourable and useful than playing for one's country; they would perhaps say. But in conservative English circles the sentiments are somewhat different. And appearing in the Varsity match next only in importance to playing a Test at Lord's and a bounden duty.

But in the present climate of things with 1400 to be earned from each Test match, the values are not the same. Moreover young Pringle, who captains Cambridge, might have thought that if he withdrew from the Test side, someone like Mike Gatting, replacing him, could conjure up a hundred, and that would retard the former's aspirations considerably. Whatever he thinking, Pringle has done the uncommon. And for it he will not be very popular in some echelons in Cambridge.

Anyhow, he did turn out for the Combined Eleven against the Indians, and produced a brisk half century in the second innings before the time petered out into a draw. It was a two-day encounter in which Gavaskar got a hundred, Shivlal Yadav five wickets. But more important, the experiment to open the innings with Ravi Shastri proved to be a fruitful exercise, for this Bombay all rounder notched up 93 in the first outing and remained unbeaten on 24 in the second. Of course, the Universities' attack was nothing to write home about.

Tour Diary

Opening up on a tricky issue

Yet one could not but admire the dedicated outlook of the youngster. It has been a most unpalatable situation for the tour selectors, with Pranob Roy emerging as an unqualified failure and Ghulam Parkar demonstrating an inability to cope with Test standard bowling. In such circumstances with no other opener in the squad, there was no option other than that of trying out Shastri, and although it is a matter for debate as to how he will fare when confronted by the likes of Willis, Botham and Allott, one is certain that it not immediately then one day this boy will be a force to reckon with as a batsman. He has good temperament, plays straight and against a slightly better attack in the Gloucestershire match, he again thrust forth a half century to virtually settle the issue for the selectors.

However, in view of India's present plight, it is, perhaps, time to speak out on team selection. When the side landed in England, this correspondent was hesitant to pass judgement on the merits or demerits of some of the new comers in the 16, as also on whether anybody in particular should have made the trip in lieu of someone who had been picked. Since then, I have emphasised that it might have been a mistake not to include Chetan Chauhan. Now I am convinced that this has been the biggest blunder.

Having watched the Delhi opener in Australia and New Zealand in the winter before last, I saw no reason why he should not have been retained in the side for the last England series. When a player is well established in the Test side, runs or lack of it in the first class level should not be a criterion.

And Chauhan was one of the most consistent batsmen Down Under. It was once said of the late Ken Barrington that he invariably ran into form with the first Test of the summer. Indeed, if the then England selectors had gone by his performances for Surrey in May he would quite often have lost his Test place.

The general rumour is that he was dropped to make way for a younger player, which is fair if only the replacement does not weaken the side. It has also been suggested in some quarters that his night involvement with the Delhi cricket politics upset some members of the Board and led to his omission. And finally, it is learnt that Vijay Mehra thought it more prudent to back Kirti Azad and not Chauhan. Cricket lovers back at home will know better if all this fits into the jigsaw puzzle. As far as I am concerned, none of them are valid enough causes for Chauhan's exclusion. His experience of English conditions and his dogged determination would, in fact, have been an asset to the Indians at this uncomfortable moment.

A good start is crucial and often makes the difference between a decent and a hopeless score. It is gathered that while Sunil Gavaskar, both last winter and before coming to England, urged the selectors, albeit mildly, to recall Chauhan, but the request fell on deaf ears. Polly Umrigar and company apparently were sold on Roy Dattu Phadkar, in fact, told me in Madras that he thought the Bengal batsman had played better than Gavaskar in the fifth Test.

Of course, anyone who saw Roy in Madras would rate him very highly. He

seemed to be undeterred by pace and was right behind the line of the most testing deliveries. But his composure and confidence has disappeared in the face of the moving ball. He is still copybook in his approach, but more often than not missing the line. Indeed, having carved out just one 50 in 12 County games, he is being labelled as Gavaskar's blue-eyed boy, who has got his chances only because of the skipper's backing.

The change between Madras and England is the deviation off the wicket. It is a misnomer to think that 'swing' is the main examination in England. There is enough change of direction in the air in India, but not so much off the track, which is what batsmen have to master in order to succeed in 'the home of cricket'. Either Roy has been taking his eyes off the ball or not adjusting to the possible 'breakback'. He has been bowled several times between the bat and pad or trapped leg before, which can be construed as inaccuracy against the incoming ball. Indeed, one cannot help feeling that he would have been better off as the third opener. Roy's last chance, in fact, transpired against Gloucestershire, when he was caught and bowled by a spinner for 32.

The other disappointment, no less devastating from an Indian angle, has been the failure of Ashok Malhotra in the first Test. He played wrong cricket by going back when he should have been forward in the first innings and by not getting into line in the second—a rather unexpected display from an exponent who had promised so much in the earlier games. And he did not quite come off versus Gloucestershire, a game, weather permitting, India could have won, thanks to two undefeated fifties and all four wickets in a total of 49 in the home side's second venture in favour of Madras. But when it comes to the Tests, it might again be an uphill task. And Gavaskar knows this better than most.

ASHIS RAY

HOLMES-COONEY HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT

Challenger glorious in defeat

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on how Gerry Cooney failed to go the distance against defending champion Larry Holmes

THE most expensive boxing extravaganza of history is over. The real life "Rocky III" show has had another ending. The underdog did not pull off an upset but still the 50 millions dollar show was worth watching as it had all the major ingredients of a good title bout.

Challenger Gerry Cooney called it "The most prestigious thing in the world." To him, the heavyweight championship was the ultimate, not just in sports, but in the whole wide world. He went after it a little too early, perhaps, and missed it by six minutes and eight seconds. Undeclared champion Larry Holmes stood between him and his aspirations. As his trainer, Victor Valle, stopped the fight in the thirteenth round, Cooney came over the public address system

and said "I'm sorry, I'm sorry." He was apologising to his fans and the public but I thought that he had nothing to apologise for. He had just given a remarkable performance marked with courage and poise. He behaved like a champion and a gentleman—even in defeat.

It was an unusual fight in many ways and the racial overtones were obvious from the very beginning—a fight between a white man and a black. Cooney's managers and the other promoters had cashed on that element.

Seldom had a young challenger with such little fight experience shot up to the position of the number one challenger for the heavyweight title of the world. Again, as Holmes had remarked so often, had Gerry

Cooney been a black young man, he would never have got a 10 millions dollar shot at the undefeated champion.

Ten million dollars. Nobody could be a loser after winning that much money for a single fight. Cooney's side insisted that he be paid the same amount as Holmes. Desperate for this showdown, Holmes agreed. Then again, as Don King admits, the main thing about the boxing promotion business is lying. The fighters are expected to make at least 10 million dollars each as the final figures will be tallied in a few more weeks. Almost all the 32,000 seats of the temporary arena at the Caesar's Palace Hotel in Las Vegas were occupied.

The gambling capital of the world,



Larry Holmes works the sweat out of Gerry Cooney in the title fight

Las Vegas, Nevada, provided the perfect setting for the fight, as it had done for the Ali-Holmes and Sugar Ray Hearn's encounter. Don King wanted to promote the event all by himself. But Tiffany Enterprises, Cooney's sponsors, allowed him only to co-promote. Two and a half-million people paid 15 dollars and more to see the fight on closed circuit television while for cities like New York, the minimum ticket was 30 dollars. Some outlets' charges were as much as 150 dollars for the show and dinner. The American Broadcasting Corporation, a leading television network is reported to have paid at least three million dollars for the right to publicly telecast it in a few days.

Gerry Holmes had two masters in his corner - his 72 year old trainer Eddie Tutch and his associate Ray Arcel, the 82 year old boxing guru. Cooney had his regular trainer Valle along with the cut specialist Artie Curle. Cooney had the advantages in height, weight and age and was also said to possess the toughest left hook since the best days of Joe Louis.

Most of the boxing experts and the Press had picked Holmes to be the winner. The only notable exception was Angelo Dundee who had predicted that Cooney would certainly win by a knockout. The experts felt that Gerry Cooney lacked experience more than anything else. The fight, originally scheduled for March 15, was postponed due to a shoulder injury which Cooney suffered while training. It was also not clear whether he had recovered fully. The gamblers in Vegas and elsewhere called the odds in favour of Holmes.

Moreover, Gerry Cooney had done very little fighting since May 25 1980 the day he had knocked out an ageing Jimmy Young. Altogether he had spent only three minutes and 43 seconds in the ring in his later fights with Ron Lyle and Ken Norton. And for almost a year he had not fought at all. Since 14 December 1979 he had boxed only five rounds in a professional bout. Nor had he fought any strong challenger in his 25 bout professional career.

Gerry Cooney was in Las Vegas that eventful night because he had the shrewdest boxing managers behind him to get him to the title fight through smart planning and clever publicity. He was certainly far less experienced than his 46 year old rival who was baptised into professional boxing as the sparring partner of Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali.

The lack of experience showed all along the fight. Cooney came to the ring dressed in green, the colour of the Irish. The young man from Long Island, New York, had his mother at the ringside and wanted to win for his dead father whose biggest ambition was to be a boxer. Holmes and his entourage marched in with unusual speed. Dennis Rappart, the

more notorious of Cooney's managers held up a sign "Tick, tick," implying that Cooney was a time bomb, ready to explode. But there was fear in their man's eyes as he stood face to face with Holmes just before the fight. Holmes, on the contrary, stared at him intensely as Cooney looked down.

The fight opened with Holmes attacking. His original plan was to circle around Cooney and stay away from his vicious left hand. Holmes stuck to that from the beginning and danced whenever he could. Cooney abstained from flitting and his stance looked rather clumsy. Partly, it was due to the fact that his legs look rather thin compared to his upper body.

Cooney was very much on the defensive while Holmes opened the attack as the former waited with his right hand raised in defence. That was to be the pattern for the whole evening. In most of the rounds, Holmes was to come charging at



Cooney grimaces after receiving a hammer blow from Holmes. He was stopped some rounds later.

Cooney's corner at the sound of the bell. At the same time the champion remained very cautious. He reduced Cooney's left hand to ineffectiveness and attacked with his right. His main technique was to set up with the left and hit with the right.

The crowd, from the beginning, was clearly on Cooney's side. It even booed Holmes as he entered the ring. But Holmes couldn't care less. He fought like a champion. He knew that all he had to do was to stay away from Cooney's left hand in the early rounds to avoid a knockout and then try to wear him out. After all, Cooney had never fought more than eight rounds.

In the second round, Holmes knocked Cooney down as no one had done before. Many thought that it was a prelude to a quick knockout. But Cooney, who refused to go flat on the floor, balanced himself on his knees and was up even before the referee Mills Lane had counted five. Still, the count went up to eight and

Cooney was all set by then. Suddenly, the challenger started on the offensive in the third round and hooked and jabbed with power and spirit. Later in the round, Holmes did the same, but the round clearly belonged to Gerry Cooney.

Holmes was not very defensive in the fourth either. Cooney went on with his assault and had Holmes reeling in the corner. But he was not able to nail him with a knockout punch. There was an equal amount of exchanges in the fifth but the round belonged to Holmes by a narrow margin and he had been able to block Cooney more effectively than in the preceding two rounds.

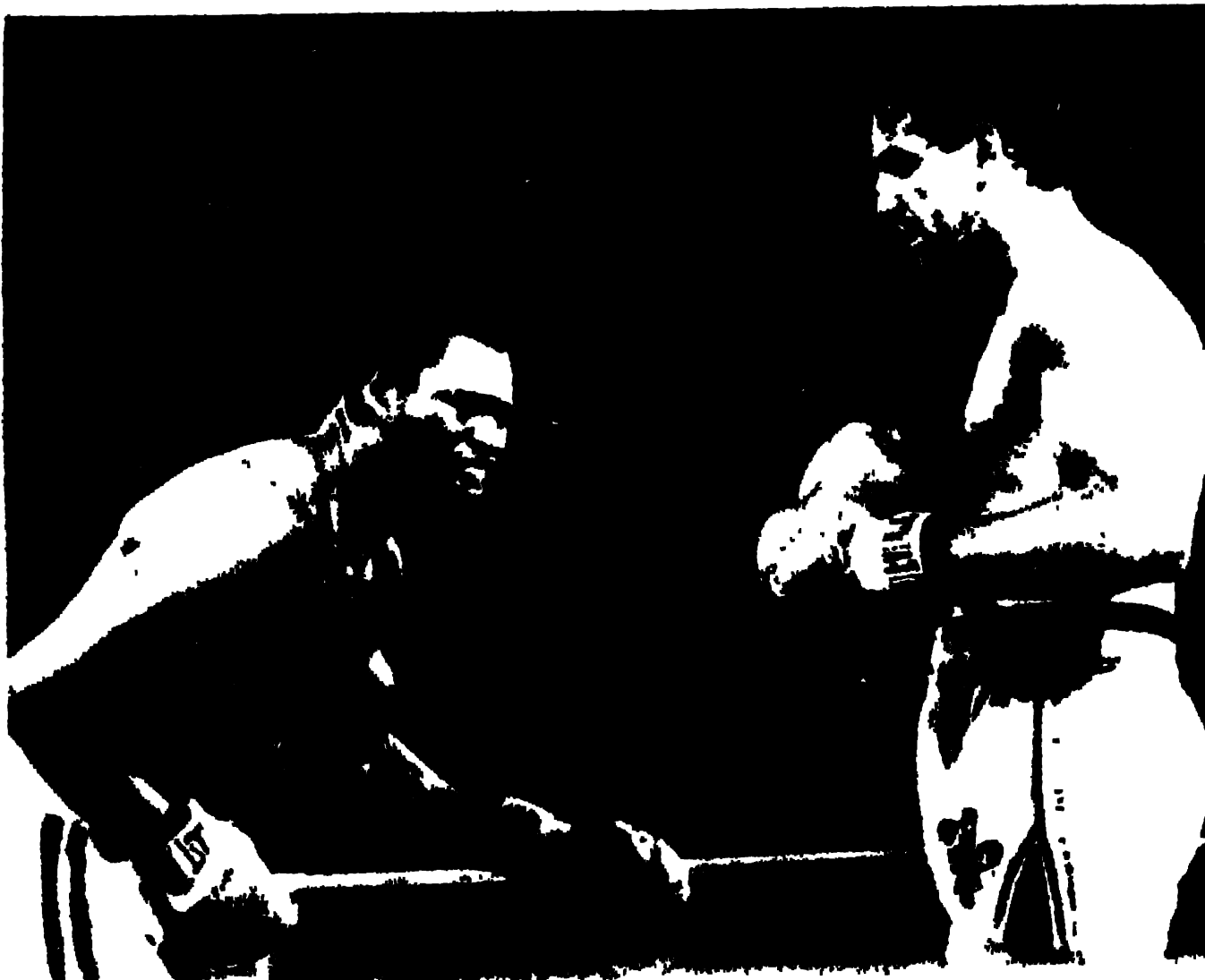
In the sixth, Holmes suddenly became very aggressive. A left and a right from the champion sent Cooney reeling and a barrage of shots followed. Cooney's head was caught in between the ropes and Holmes kept hitting him. He came out of it somehow and survived the round. Blood oozed from the cuts over his left eye and on the bridge of his nose. His left eye began closing as the seventh round opened but he continued valiantly.

He came back in the eighth round with a bang and clearly dominated the first half. Only by the end of the round did Holmes come up with a couple of good punches.

Cooney took some beating in the ninth and his blows low at least twice, the second one being a hard and brutal blow. Holmes bent down in pain and the referee gave him a minute to recover and deducted two points from Cooney's tally. The tenth round belonged to Cooney but a round later Holmes had recovered and was on the offensive again. Another low blow from Cooney was penalised by one point and the round went Holmes' way even without the penalty.

By now Cooney was getting tired. His hands had started drooping gradually, he couldn't keep his right hand high enough or hit really hard with his left. The string had disappeared. On the other hand, Holmes' right kept coming through out the twelfth but Cooney continued to absorb it all like a man. But the fatal 13th had drawn near. Cooney, exhausted and bleeding, left himself open and immediately Holmes landed over a dozen in a row as the challenger hung on to the ropes with one hand. But Gerry Cooney refused to go down. He wanted to prove that he could take the blows something many critics had suspected. But his trainer couldn't stand it any longer and jumped into the ring putting his arms around Cooney. It was all over.

Cooney later said about the throwing in of the towel "I want to go back to the gym and train harder and prepare for the next time," he continued "I want to say I am sorry. I have no excuses. I just wanted to win just to win" and he almost broke



Larry Holmes winces after receiving one below the belt from Cooney. The latter was warned.

down. But later, doing an Ali impression, he said like Ali used to say, 'I shall return' and shared the laughter with the Press.

Ville believes that he did the right thing in throwing in the towel. "I know when a fighter is tired and all his reflexes are gone. I didn't want him to get a beating; I'm not going to let my fighter take a beating for all the millions in the whole world. I love this boy too much," he said.

But Cooney explained, "There's no excuses to make. I just want you to understand. I don't fight for money. I fought to win. I fought for the people. I guess I'm a little disappointed because I lost. I'm not going to hang my head down low. I'm going home and I'll do better next time. I'm sorry."

In spite of his bitterness towards Cooney before the fight, Larry Holmes was gracious to acknowledge that Cooney surprised him. "Gerry is a fighter and he surprised me and I think he surprised a lot of people. If he ever gets Rapport out of his corner, he will be all right."

Larry Holmes was probably more surprised at the way the judges scored the fight. Juan Lord scored it 113-111, Dave Moretti put it at 113-

111 and Jerry Roth had it 115-109 in Holmes' favour. That meant that on two cards, Larry Holmes led by only one point because Cooney was penalised by three points for infractions. No one in their right mind could believe it. "It was going to be robbery," said co-promoter Don King. "I'm completely mystified by the scoring. And if Larry Holmes hit



Cooney slumps on the shoulder of his trainer and the fight comes to the end.

Gerry Cooney below the belt as many times as Cooney hit Larry Holmes he would have been disqualified."

Don King says that he may have to bid goodbye to Las Vegas if the Nevada State Commission does not appoint better judges. But there is only one Vegas. Still, it would have been a shame if the fight had gone the distance of 15 rounds and Gerry Cooney had won on points. It would have been an unfair stigma on the gallant Gerry Cooney. He must be happy that it didn't happen.

In retrospect, the fight proved one thing: that there is no short route to the heavyweight championship of the world. It is experience that makes the difference.

This fight reminded one of the Montreal brawl between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran. Leonard was less experienced. He tried to prove to the world that he could take punches from Duran and went on the defensive. He gave up his methods and fought in the Duran style with disastrous results. Cooney did the same. He has proved that he could take punches but in the process, forgot to fight in his natural way and to knock out Holmes.

WORLD CUP '82

Pilgrims progress

With upsets and controversies playing their roles, the grand fiesta of soccer in Spain is hotting up fast. Referees are being criticised and there have even been official probes into certain cases of alleged partiality. Players are threatening to walk out and giants like West Germany are giving way to fledgelings like Algeria. With all this, the drama now seems headed for a spectacular climax. **ARIJIT SEN** files his report

THREE has been so much variety and such surprises that the first eight days of the World Cup pool matches will remain indelible in any chronicle on world football.

By the night of June 25, most of the minnows had packed their bags for home as the seasoned wolves got ready for round two but they have left memories that will continue to shock and surprise the latter for years to come. For Joao Havelange, this would be a great triumph over

his critics who had gone to the extent of alleging that he had offered bribes for his re-election—which included the expansion of the World Cup finals to 24 teams.

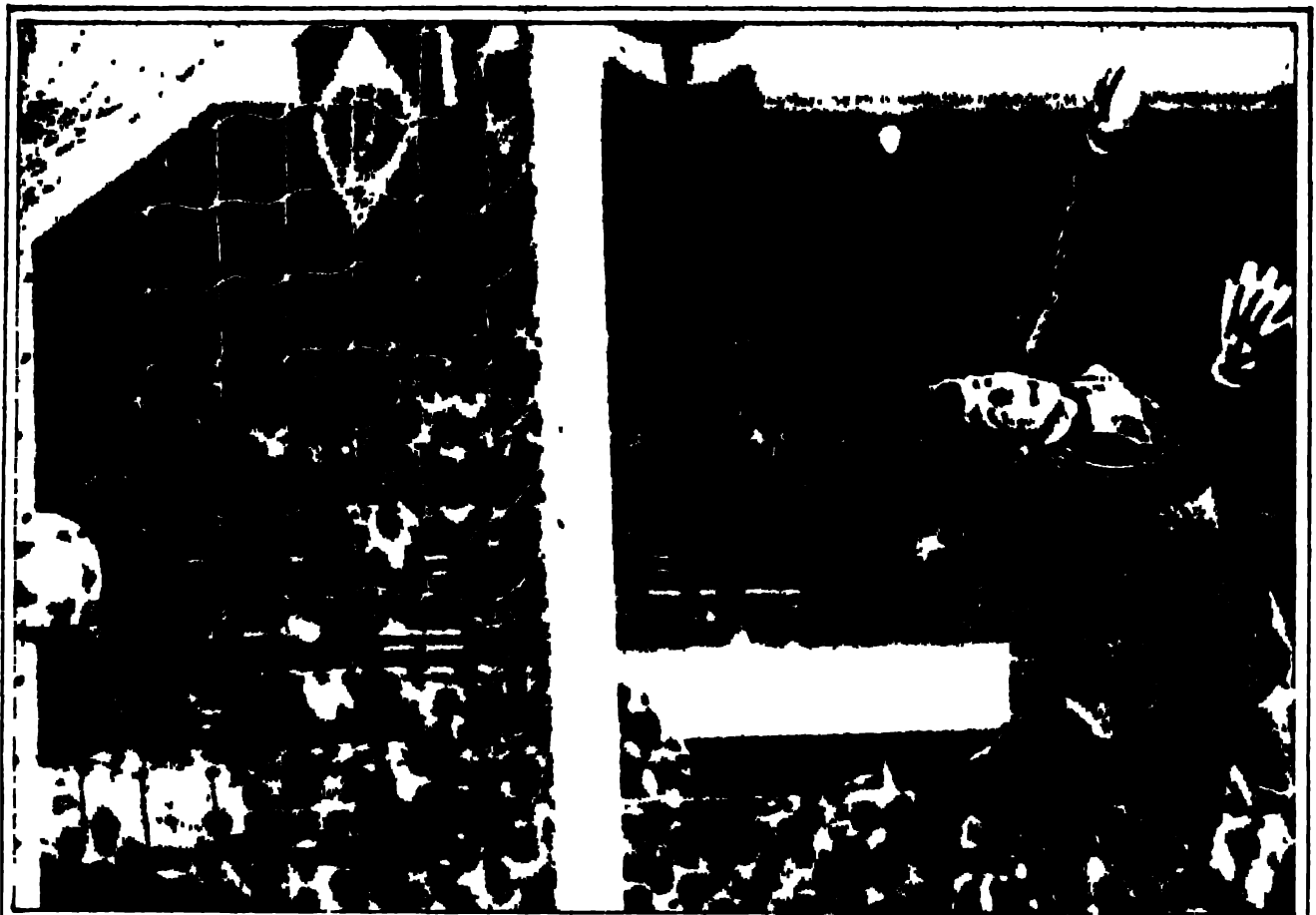
Among the countries to profit from this decision were Algeria, Cameroon, Kuwait and the weakest outfit, El Salvador, but the so-called greats of European football, like England, have also benefited. The last named would not have made it to the finals otherwise.

Except for El Salvador, every team has proved it is worth its salt. And Cameroon's goalkeeper N'Kono—who religiously wears German Sepp Maier's gift of a tracksuit to his most ardent fan—may well be acclaimed the world's best custodian by the time the tournament is through.

The World Cup has also brought into focus the standard—or is it inclination?—of referees. It all began with the Spanish referee Augusto Lamo-Castillo's refusal to award

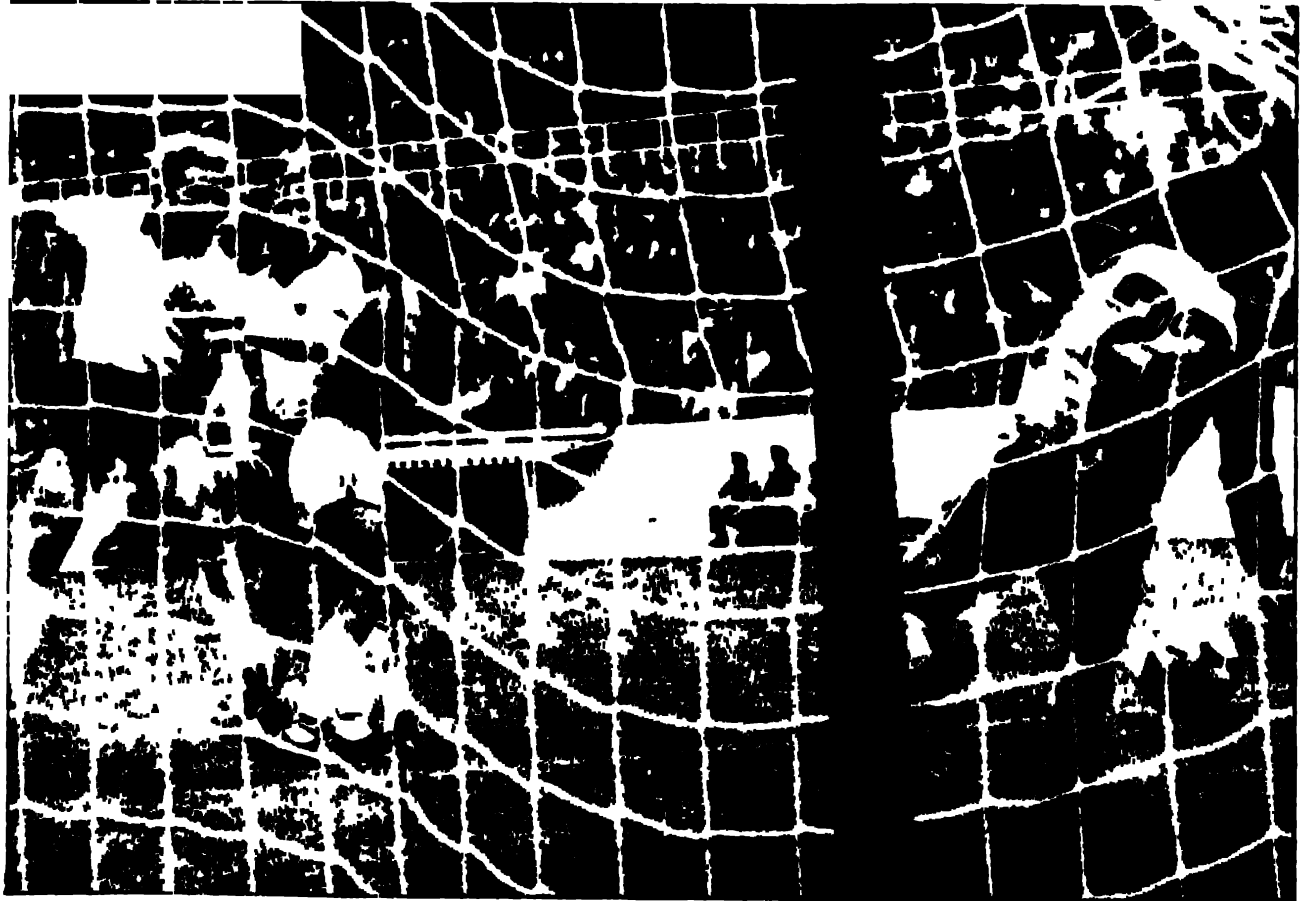
A view of the opening ceremony

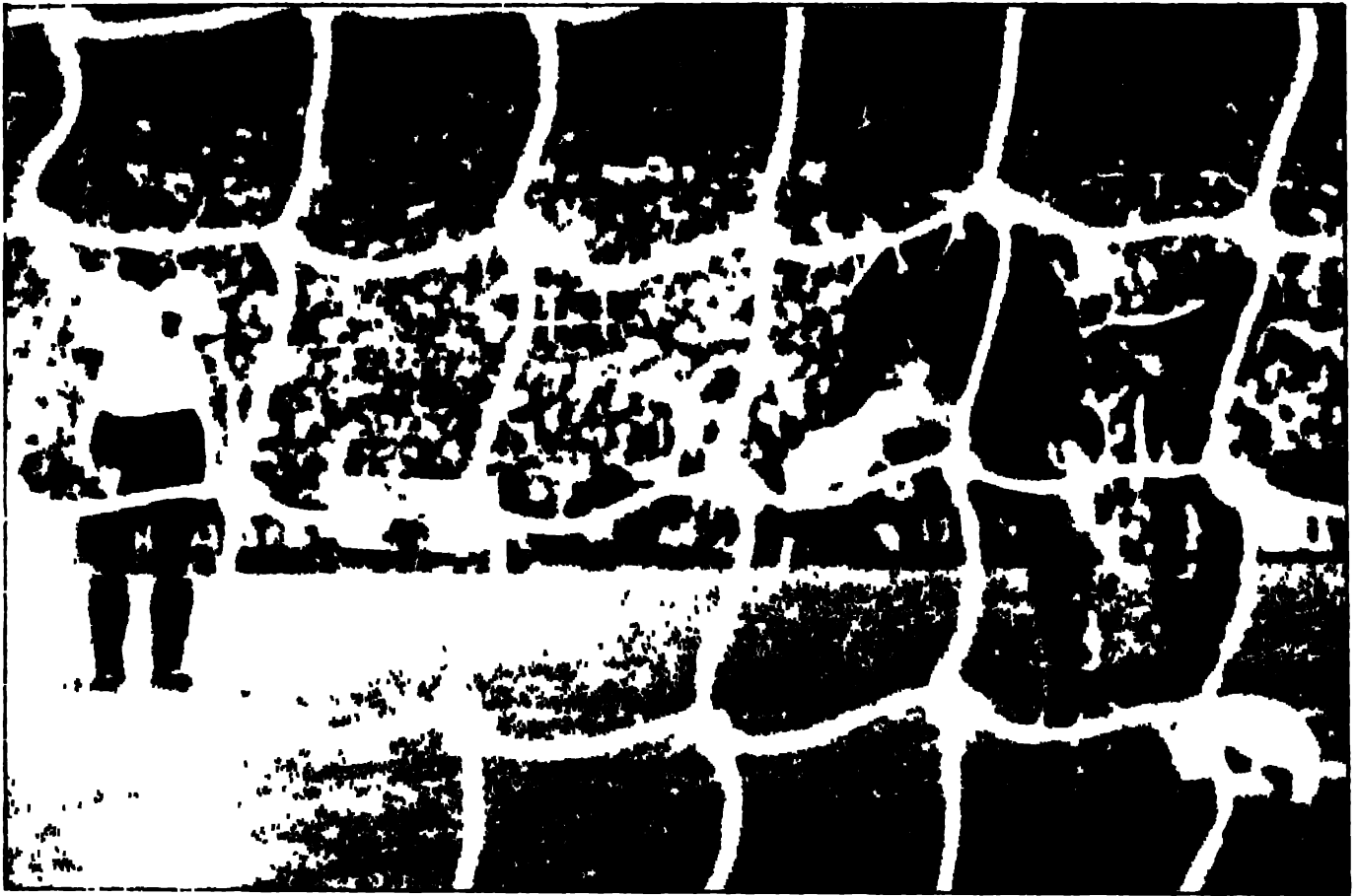




Socrates equalizer for Brazil. The Soviet goalie Rinat Dasaev tries his best to stop the ball but in vain

Chile's goalkeeper Mano Obsen jumps to the side in a futile attempt to save a shot of Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (left). It was his second goal in the match





Chile's Carlos Caszely (No. 13) misses a penalty in the 27th minute of the match against Austria

Gilberto Yearwood of Honduras makes a futile attempt to score during the match against Spain



Sidelights

WORLD CUP

Belfast prodigy

WHEN Northern Ireland took the field against Yugoslavia at Zaragoza on June 17, Norman Whiteside became the youngest player to appear in any World Cup. At 17 years and 10 days of age, Whiteside is younger than when Pele took the world by storm in his first appearance. Having already gone through a cartilage operation—only six months ago—it was feared that he would not make it in the squad, let alone the first eleven. But then he recovered fast and was first choice as an attacker. Although the Manchester United striker from Belfast did not perform miracles, he played no mean part in Northern Ireland's draw with favored Yugoslavia.

Ossie's dilemma

BROUGHT in with much fanfare after Argentina's 1978 World Cup triumph, Osvaldo (Ossie) Ardiles played with some distinction for Tottenham Hotspur. But the moment the Falklands crisis blew up, he had to leave for home. Since then, he has had a difficult time making up his mind. He finally started talking with St. Germaine officials. The Paris team will, in all probability, take him in after the World Cup. "I want to play for their next season. I certainly won't be with Spurs after what happened in the Falklands. This was his final commitment—just before the World Cup started. But after the makes it came a slight



Franz Beckenbauer (left) and Bobby Charlton

change in tune. "I admit I said I won't play for Spurs again. But now I don't rule out the possibility of going over to England and playing again, provided of course there are no further problems in those islands."

Sleepy Robson

BRYAN ROBSON scored a World Cup record. Apart from scoring two goals, he

created a record for the quickest goal in World Cup history. One remembers how Holland scored one in 30 seconds against West Germany. There was another by Lacombe of France against Italy after 31 seconds of a 1978 World Cup tie. That was the fastest on record. This time, however, again in a pool match, Robson latched on to a back header by Butcher off a throw by Coppell

and volleyed the ball past French goalkeeper Ettori. It was then only the 27th second of the match.

While on Robson, do you know the secret of his success? Don't say Bryan "who"? any more. He scored a hat trick when, after his two goals for England, he scored one off the field when his wife gave birth to their second child again—a daughter—the day after England's victory over France. Robson's success, he insists, is due to the fact that his sleep covers exactly half of a 24-hour day.

Unlucky 13

NUMBER 13 has always been unlucky for France's Footballer of the Year Michel Platini, the golden boy of French soccer. The latest inline is his teammate and fellow Mediolanios. The players have an uncanny understanding on the field. Unfortunately, they have fallen out off the same girl—Chrystelle. There would have been no cause for worry if Chrystelle was just another 23-year-old French girl in love with two 26-year-old men who happened to be famous footballers. But she was Platini's wife, while the No. 13 shirted Larios was already living with a girl friend. However, after a brief separation, the childhood sweethearts from a place called Nancy—who were married five years ago—were reunited and Larios was forgotten. Off the field, that is. On the ground, the understanding between the two appeared to have increased during the World Cup!

Every drop fights
scalp dryness

Vaseline

HAIR TONIC
AND SCALP CONDITIONER



USSR at least two penalties in their match against Brazil. This was followed by a series of decisions—usually against the supposedly weaker teams.

The affair came to a boil when Kuwait met France in what was to be the turning point in the race for second position in Group Four. France won 4-1, but the game could quite easily have gone the other way. There were several niggling decisions—offsides and fouls committed just outside the penalty area by France—which were not seen by the Soviet referee or ignored by him. There were also three goals disallowed for France, but in each case a penalty offside decision was arrived at late. And Kuwait were denied a genuine goal for alleged pushing inside the box.

The upshot of it was a threatened walkout by the Kuwaitis when a whistle from the crowd, just before the French scored, distracted them. They hesitated and saw the ball in their own net. As the referee whistled a goal, the Kuwaitis started arguing and then walked towards the sideline. Heated arguments followed and then the referee changed his decision to that of offside. This was followed by the French threatening to walk out.

Meanwhile, some of the opposing players nearly came to blows. Finally, officials of the two teams suc-



Erwin Vandenbergh of Belgium kneels on the ground raising his arms in joy after scoring for his team against Argentina.

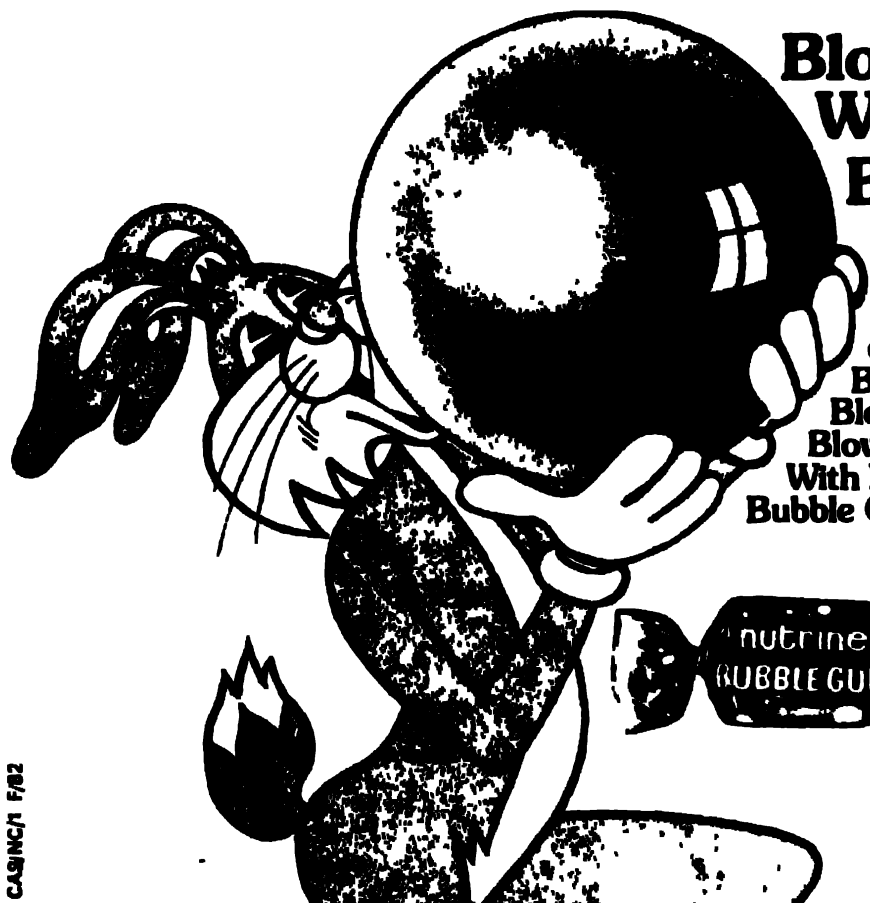
ceeded in getting their players to resume the match. Legally, the referee can always change his mind as long as the game has not re-started after a decision has been given. But this incident once again spotlighted the ineptitude or worse of some referees.

The Kuwaiti manager and Presi-

dent of the KFA, Sheikh Fahd Al-Sabeh, told his boys to continue with the game, but was openly critical of the FIFA. "The moment we saw a Soviet referee and a Rumanian linesman, we knew we had lost the match. How can they be neutral when they have a fellow-communist country like Czechoslovakia in the group? I think FIFA wants us to lose because of gate money. They will earn more if European teams qualify for the second round. They want crowd pullers, not good footballers", he said.

The incident was probed by FIFA. The referee submitted his report to the organising committee and the referees' panel and the technical committee debated the issue. After the report was studied and discussed, FIFA could have banned Kuwait from further participation. But a fine of 25,000 Swiss francs was imposed. The findings of the FIFA observer on the ground and the technical committee will determine the fate of the referee. He is not being given another match until then.

Of course, mistakes can be made. But if they are blatant, it leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Thankfully, this is not a serious problem so far with regard to Group One, where the first four matches failed to produce a result. And, until Italy played, came soon it could not be known which team would qualify for the second



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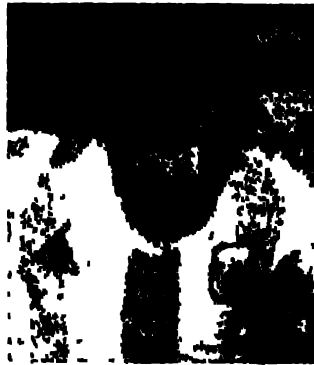
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Man of the week

If there is one man who can lift Argentina from the depression of defeat, it is the five feet four inch bundle of muscle and music, Diego Maradona. He did not find his rhythm in Argentina's first match in the World Cup, but Barcelona—in fact the whole of Spain—came alive when the world champions met Hungary. Maradona conducted an all-embracing symphony that should not have ended in a mere 4-1 victory. The Argentines that day should have beaten Hungary by the margin with which the latter defeated El Salvador. Indeed, a fair scoresheet would have been Argentina 10, Hungary 1.

This complete dominance was due mainly to the form displayed by the little Maradona, who would have been the youngest player ever to enter the World Cup had the country's team manager, Cesar Luis Menotti, chosen him for the successful 1978 campaign. Unfortunately for Maradona, the two fell out and Menotti explained that the player was too young to take on the world.

But to that, later Maradona was born the fifth child of the eight that a poor railway worker of Buenos Aires had. Descended from Italian immigrants, Maradona grew up in squallor, but from a very early age played football—with plimsolls and tin cans.



His first club was Argentinos Juniors. He joined it at the age of 13, but was so thin that he had to be put on a daily and urgent dose of vitamins and injections to make him strong. He soon developed to be a very strong, muscular boy who was, at the same time, flashingly quick on and with the ball. His speed and control were so good that, at 16, he joined the Juniors' top team. It was, in fact, ten days before his 16th birthday. Barely four months later, he won his first international cap.

But, just as he seemed to be a regular in the Argentine squad, Menotti dropped him from the team for the World Cup at Jose C Paz. The public was stunned and angry, because Maradona had already become the most popular player in the country. But, in the sensational events of the World Cup, Menotti's mistake was forgotten.

By the time the twelfth World Cup came around

Maradona had become a national celebrity, to the unprecedented extent of the government stepping in to prevent the player from leaving the country for more lucrative pastures.

Even before that, Maradona had made his peace with the manager. He had said earlier that he had finished with Menotti and would never play for the country under the latter's stewardship. But he came back to a press conference to admit his mistake and even went to the extent of saying that perhaps Menotti was right in excluding him in 1978, because he was too young at the time. Menotti's answer was to blood him into the top level of football. First, he took him to the South American youth championship in Montevideo, then included him in the squad that toured Europe and, finally made him the kingpin in the FIFA World Youth Championship for the Coca Cola Cup in Japan. In each of these competitions Maradona was the cynosure of all eyes. Everywhere he was acknowledged as one of the finest ball players of the world.

Meanwhile, offers came pouring in. Juventus of Italy bid almost two million dollars for him, while Barcelona F.C. came up with a five million offer. By then Argentinos Juniors were almost bankrupt, so the

military regime in Buenos Aires stepped in with funds to transfer him to a leading local club, Boca, for a fee that was well over eight million dollars. And this did not include the beautiful house and car that was presented to him. Maradona, thus, was making over a million and a half dollars a year.

Boca, like Argentinos Juniors, was a happy hunting ground for Diego Maradona. He played well for the club and took it to greater heights than it had ever reached before. But he has had to pay a price for being rated the best footballer of the world at present. He is the natural choice for heavy tackles in any match particularly at the top level of competition. Many compare him with the great Pele.

But Maradona's head is still ruled by his heart. His first concern still remains his parents. 'They have given me everything. Now even if they ask for the moon, I must give it to them. Whatever I do, however much I earn, my first task is to make my parents comfortable and happy. Nothing I do for them is enough.'

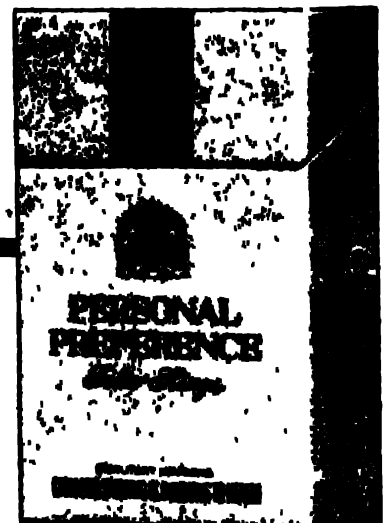


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round, apart from Poland, who thrashed Peru 5-1 in the fifth match.

The picture in Group Two was slightly clearer. Austria beat Chile 1-0 and Algeria 2-0. They had already qualified and were awaiting the fate of Algeria and West Germany to see which other team could move up. West Germany began disastrously, losing to Algeria 1-2, but recovered their composure to slog Chile 4-1, the injured captain and star striker Karl Heinz Rummenigge netting a hat-trick to stake his country's claim to higher honours. A lot depended on Algeria's encounter with Chile—the latter did not earn a point, while the former had two. But the deciding factor was to be the last tie between Germany and Austria.

In Group Three, the world champions, Argentina, struck form late, but were still not certain of a place in the next round where Belgium, who defeated them in a lack lustre open-

ing tie, had already assured themselves of a berth by beating El Salvador 1-0 in what was a tale of missed chances. Hungary had earlier trounced El Salvador 10-1 to notch up a World Cup record, but failed miserably against the Argentines, who turned on the Maradona magic to win 4-1 in what was a patently one-sided encounter. Even so, both teams earned two points from two matches each. The decided game was to be the match between Belgium and Hungary, which ended in a draw. But the Argentines were far better off, having to meet El Salvador in the last match.

In Group Four, in which there has been the greatest commotion, England were already through to the second round, with four points from two matches. France had earned two, while Kuwait and Czechoslovakia a point each, all from two matches each. In the unlikely event of

Czechoslovakia holding France and Kuwait beating England in their last encounters, Kuwait could qualify. Otherwise, especially if one were to go by present form, France should go up comfortably.

Group Five was much more open, thanks to an inept display by the hosts, Spain. They began by scraping through to a draw against Honduras (1-1) and beating Yugoslavia 2-1 through a controversial penalty re-take. The first shot had gone out, but the referee felt the Yugoslav goalie had moved when the shot was being taken. The re-take produced a goal. Even so, Spain led the group with three points, while Northern Ireland had two and Yugoslavia one. If Yugoslavia beat Honduras by a comfortable margin, they should get through because Northern Ireland had to match the frenzied support for Spain when the two teams meet on June 25.

In the last group, Brazil were sitting pretty with full points from their two matches, while USSR and Scotland battled it out for the second place. Brazil did not do too well against the Soviet Union, but when they met Scotland, they sang a different tune. Scotland started out well, scoring first through David Narely who did well to shoot just when about to be squeezed out by two defenders.

But then a free kick from about 25 yards, taken by Zico, levelled terms. It was a brilliant banana, curling past the Scottish defence wall and finding the top of the net. In the second half, it was all Brazil. They wove a samba pattern—to the rhythmic beat of drums in the stadium and scored through a header by Oscar off a curling corner by Junior. Then came a superlative chip by winger Eder on the run, which beat the goalkeeper hands down. The last goal came after a combined move by Socrates and Seighino found the latter tapping the ball for the advancing Falcão to boot home from well outside the penalty area. The scoresheet blanked out Scotland's goal difference.

It became 6-6 and allowed USSR to surge ahead on that point after they beat New Zealand 3-0. It was then left to the two contestants to thrash out the vital match, USSR needing only a draw and Scotland an outright victory. This match ended in a dramatic 2-2 draw, but it was enough for USSR.

The competition in Spain was only hotting up at that stage but there was a long way still to go for every team before the shimmering gold cup could be taken. While Brazil and Argentina were full of confidence, England were creeping up from behind. They did not play attractive soccer, but their functional prowess could see them through. One shuddered, however, to think about the gates if and when Spain fell to superior class.

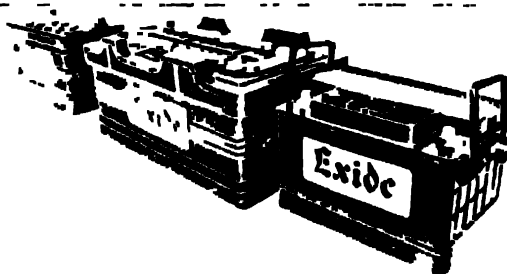


The New Zealand skipper, Steve Sumner, puts the ball past the Scotland custodian to score his team's first goal in the New Zealand-Scotland match. Scotland won 5-2.

WORLD CUP *Action Photographs*



(Clockwise from top left)
Soviet player Andrei Bel in
an aggressive pose. Po-
land's Zbigniew Boniek in a
tackle with Antonio Cabrini
of Italy. Soviet goalie Rinat
Dasaev clears from Brazil's
Zico. Belgian custodian
Jean-Marie Pfaff saves a
shot



Performance.
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1

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Still keeps going
when the rest have stopped



Argentina's inaugural match





Winners all the way

WORLD CUP

RECORDS

Chloroformed by compatriot

[illegible]

Ball diplomacy

RICHARD references John
1 Timothy 2:11-12 which
states that women should
be silent in church and
submit to their husbands as
the church submits to Christ.



Jules Rimet



Meazza receives the Cup for Italy—their second successive win—after beating Hungary

to see eye to eye over the use of a ball. Diplomats in nations were already strained between these two countries, so Langmead used his discretion and ordered that the first half be played with an Argentine ball while the second half be played with one from Uruguay.

Referee suspended

MERLET, a Swiss referee, was the first supervisor to be suspended as a result of his spineless decisions during a 1934 encounter between Italy

ה'תשנ"ח ז' אייר
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The first hat-trick

[illegible]

Five times

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Man of the week

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MATCH OF THE WEEK

The bespectacled Jupp Derwall, manager of the West German team, is not given to excesses. Like his predecessor Helmut Schen, under whom he worked with the World Cup winning squad of '74, Derwall is very thorough.

So when he quipped before the Germans opened the 1982 campaign in Spain that "Germany takes to heart Algeria's first opening goal" he would take the first important home supporters and scribes thought the Algerian side making their debut in the World Cup would be mere pushovers.

The Gignac Stadium, Asnam, on the northern coast, had a far-thinking of West German fans but only 3,000 Algerians as the match between the European champion and the North African team started.

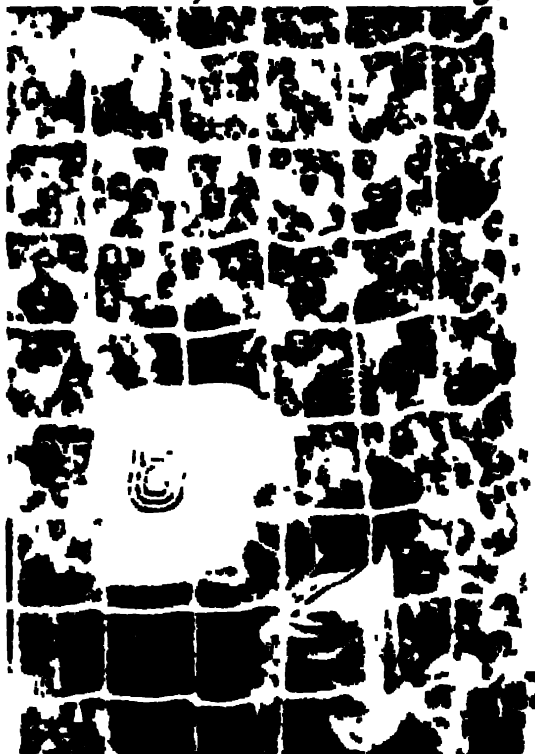
Within minutes it came to life as Algeria began to fight on equal terms. They appeared to be faster than the Germans, especially in counter-attacks. Both teams missed chances in the first half but conceded none. The Algerians, who had said they had come to Spain to learn from the "big team" of the world, laughed at the supposedly feared of countries a thing or two before the time came to close.

In the 58th minute, Algeria's Farouk Boudjellal launched a free kick, and

riced into the penalty area and took a shot. It was partially saved by German custodian Schumacher, but Rahou Madjer was on hand to slam it home.

Stung by this reverse, the German assault repeated by and in the 57th minute, looked to have "nothing under control," Helmut Fendert got away. Magath joined in the effort, and the latter sent a low ball through the goal area. This was met by the European Footballer.

West Germany concede the first goal



the rear. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge as he almost skied into the goal taking the ball with him.

But German jubilation was short-lived as, exactly 60 seconds later, Salah Assad raced along the left, flipped the ball into the danger zone and Bellouni pounded on the ball to leave Schumacher groping. That was the end of the goal scoring, but not the German efforts to equalize. They did go desperately forward in a bid to wipe out the shame. But they did not

succeed and Algeria did what the United States had done to England in 1950. But that match had been decided by a single goal. This one saw the underdogs come back again after the would-be world champions had drawn level and were expected to rout the newcomers.

The game revealed that the Germans were not invincible and like the Argentinians were susceptible to pace. The Algerians had set a cracking pace and maintained it throughout the 90-minute encounter. Although the German approach work was good, they did not look as a team up front. But what seems ominous in these early stages of the competition is the fact that the German defence is not only impenetrable, but tends to crack under pressure.

Surprisingly, this was not the first time that Algeria had beaten West Germany. They had marked a clear 2-0 margin back in 1964. This time the Algerian manager Mahieddine Khazri said, "The West Germans were strong opponents, but today we saw their flaws and took advantage of them. Our team still lacks some scoring ability, but that is more or less a psychological problem."

If the Germans carry any bitter memories of the 11th World Cup, it will be this nerve-wracking misadventure with Algeria.

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King John's title defence begins

ASHIS RAY reports from Wimbledon

THE All England Championship without Bjorn Borg is hard to believe. But that's the reality of the 1982 tournament, as the five-time champion, on his own admission, spends his time practising with his wife and coach, and otherwise, following events on television.

The impact of the Swede's absence, along with that of the Czech Ivan Lendl, and the Argentines, Jose Luis Clerc and Guillermo Villas, (the last two for political reasons), was felt on the opening day, when the attendance dropped by 8,500 on last year's figure.

Somehow, the stimulation that accompanies the raising of the curtain on this "championship of championships" was simply not there. Of course the gloomy weather forecast—which proved to be accurate—and the industrial action on the London Underground deterred most fans from making the annual pilgrimage on the first day. But the underlying disinterest, admitted or not, was undoubtedly the absence of the ever popular Borg.

But the man defending the mantle was back. And indeed, the colourful and controversial John Patrick McEnroe breezed through his first round match on Centre Court to indicate that whoever dethrones him will have to perform extraordinarily well to do so.

His opponent was fellow American Van Winitsky, 22, a rival since both were twelve and who won the Junior Wimbledon title the year McEnroe was making his first meteoric march to the semi-finals at the age of seven.

Winitsky, however, has not realised his early promise, and last year, despite winning the Hong Kong Grand Prix, was afflicted by a shoulder injury for most of the time. In fact, even if the holder had played badly, he would have had little difficulty in cruising into the second round, since his adversary committed too many unforced errors to give rise to any concern.

All the same, McEnroe being a perfectionist, uncoiled the full repertoire of his strokes, from devastating serves to dainty dinks, to prevail 6-2, 6-2, 6-3. It was a matter of just 75 minutes.

The Centre Court crowd at Wimbledon has a tradition of rooting for the underdog or any one who is play-

ing indifferently. In other words, what they seek is a good contest, and every time Winitsky showed any semblance of a fight, this was cheered lustily.

These occasions, however, were few and far between. Once for instance, Winitsky came up trumps in an intense net duel, and the roof of the stands almost exploded with the resultant applause. But the support was not adequate to sustain the competition. The champion, irrespective of the mild brushes with authority, was just not in the mood—as is generally the case—to oblige.



On the adjacent Court Number One, while McEnroe was launching the tourney in the customary manner, the Number Two seed, and the man likeliest to trouble the New Yorker this year Jimmy Connors, was signalling an equally impressive start to his campaign.

Champion in 1974, Connors' hurdle was the South African Myburg and the latter not unexpectedly succumbed 6-0, 6-2, 6-2. As usual, the American's power-packed ground strokes skimmed across the lush green court with electrifying effect and he appears to be in great form and in the correct frame of mind to

rattle McEnroe.

In fact, he defeated his younger compatriot in the final at Queen's Club to issue a serious warning to the unofficial world champion, and a meeting between the two in the ultimate stage at Wimbledon could be a match to remember. But Connors has to be wary of a gentleman called Vijay Amritraj, who can upset the calculations of most prospective champions if he strikes form. Vijay is in the same hall as Connors once again.

The Indian, this time, most sensibly, has withdrawn from the doubles. The idea being, as always recommended by the great coach Harry Hopman, to concentrate on singles.

The fast-serving Tanner, in fact, is likely to confront him in the third round. But that, too, depends on Amritraj getting past the fairly incisive Jeff Borowiak in the first round, a match which was postponed on the first day because of the weather. Amritraj, in fact, spent a part of the afternoon watching his Davis Cup colleague Ramesh Krishnan struggle but eventually get the better of the Briton Andrew Jarrett 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. Shashi Menon, incidentally, had a much easier time disposing of the Czech Pavel Slozil 6-2, 7-6, 6-0.

But a final word about Amritraj. By winning the Tokyo tournament recently, he has emphasised that he is currently in very good touch. And although he was within two points of being eliminated in the qualifying rounds (the ignominy of having to qualify was thrust on him as a result of his non-participation in any Grand Prix tournament this year), he has the confidence to do well on grass, his favourite surface—and it is about time he proved his worth at Wimbledon.

So, a gloomy rain affected start to this year's All England, and as has been mentioned, in the absence of the mercurial Borg. But compensation significantly enough has come from another Swedish source—the seventeen-year-old Mats Wilander, who sooner than later will hold aloft the trophy on Centre Court.

Semi-finalist in Rome, winner of the French Open, this teenager surely is another Borg. Indeed, shaped in that familiar mould of topspin drives and the two-fisted backhand, he is no chicken on grass. In fact, he is more willing than Borg, ever was at his age to come up to the net and settle the issue in the manner the surface demands. He has a good enough serve to enable him to adopt that attacking posture.

Yes, it was this lad who lifted the haze of a London afternoon and the hearts of schoolgirls by beating Heinz Günthardt of Switzerland in four sets on the opening day. He possibly lacks the consistency to win this time. But keep track of this boy, he is sure to go places.

SECRET
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
AP

IN

Are Wimbledon's days of glory numbered?

GEORGE K. GEORGE examines the question

HOW can someone be conspicuous by his or her absence? It certainly looks as if it is happening at Wimbledon this year and more is being said and written about the top five men who are missing the tournament this year. Does it mark the beginning of a revolt against the oligarchy of the All England Club? It could very well be. The desertion that John Patrick McEnroe Jr began at the sanctuary of world tennis seems to be spreading gradually.

Two years ago none of the young players might have made some of the statements on Wimbledon that have been made recently. Ironically enough this year's assault on Wimbledon has been pioneered by its perennial idol Bjorn Borg. Ivan Lendl, Flot Tetscher and Harold Solomon also joined the assault in their own way.

It took the ruthless guts of a young New Yorker to tell the Wimbledon establishment 'You are the pits of the world. Anyone used to the American slang would not have taken it as an offence but Wimbledon, ably assisted by the British Press, led a crusade against the rebellious McEnroe. But the 'Prince of Wails' as they called him, had the last laugh.

One cannot approve of John McEnroe's behaviour as a whole at last year's Wimbledon. But the young man had a point. The players deserved to get some respect and breathing space. Most of the young players today cannot understand why there should be regulations against minor things like grunting while serving. More so, because tennis is no longer the amateur sport of royal ty. It is an extremely competitive spectator sport and has been built up into a gladiator's art rather than an exercise of feudal etiquette.

This year's Wimbledon will miss five of the top 10 men in the game today. One feels really sorry for the talented Guillermo Vilas, who has been enjoying his second-best career streak and is certainly one of the major casualties of the Falklands dispute. With Bjorn Borg out of the field, Vilas had a splendid opportunity of capturing the one title that has always eluded him. Jose Luis Clerc, number five at the moment, will be another prisoner of the same war. After last summer's splendid spell,

Bjorn Borg boycotted this year's Wimbledon because he was asked to play through the qualifying rounds. The rule states that any player who has not entered 10 Grand Prix events

by December 1982 would have to qualify. Borg missed a few tournaments during his leave of absence. Wimbledon was willing to compromise a bit by letting him extend the December deadline to the end of March 1983. Borg declined on a point of principle.

Also missing will be Ivan Lendl, the number four, the Young Turk who has earned over a million dollars already this year. Lendl, who had lost the first round to Charlie Fancutt last year, gave three reasons for his absence. Firstly he said that he had to tune up for the Davis Cup match in July. But he knew that the reason was not so sound, so he said that he didn't like the tournament because he didn't get enough practice opportunity. Finally he maintained that he could not put up with the way the Wimbledon lords treated common folks like him. Those who know Ivan know the real reason. He hates to lose.

He knows that at present he does not have a chance to win Wimbledon. What he wants to do now is to keep his record as unblemished as possible and earn as much money as he

Wimbledon listens

YOU bet Wimbledon is quite aware of what is going on. Proof? Just look at the changes introduced for this year's competition.

It has raised the prize money by 41 per cent.

It has added an extra day, a Sunday for the men's final.

It has published a 16 page brochure for the players—something that has never been done before.

Better practice facilities and increased ticket allowances have resulted.

A dialogue with John McEnroe Sr, who is his son's manager, will be held to avoid the repetition of last year's troubles and to establish better communication with the reigning champion.

Establishment of a player liaison committee.

Sir Brian Burnett will make an appearance at the Association of Tennis Professionals' annual meeting.

He has promised to choose the umpires more carefully.

can. He realises that he cannot be the number one without winning Wimbledon but being the most crafty opportunist in the game today, he will wait for the appropriate moment. Borg is out of his way, McEnroe has a mental block against him and Connors, his nemesis, has not played him for some time. Though he initially announced that he would not enter Wimbledon, he was again flitting with the idea after winning the Tournament of Champions. But after the shock treatment from Mats Wilander at Paris he withdrew with honour. He knows that he has plenty of time and will probably emerge as Connors fades away and McEnroe cracks under the pressure of continuously being the number one.

John McEnroe will have to face Wojtek Fibak, Ilie Nastase, Andres Gomez, Johan Kriek or Mats Wilander on his way to the final and has a tougher draw than Connors. He doesn't seem keen to add the whole of England to that list. He is subdued now and somehow the 'kill' seems to be missing. But he is too dedicated a professional to treat something like Wimbledon with ease. But he is out to avoid controversy. 'I wouldn't want to win Wimbledon again if it meant going through the same scenes as last year,' he says. Being a man of his word, McEnroe might come out of it very restrained.

In the women's division the number one seed, Martina Navratilova, seems to be all set for a comeback. Somehow, Chris Evert Lloyd seems to be lacking the urge to win. Surprisingly, she has entered in the doubles with Kathy Rinaldi as her partner, the youngest woman professional and in the mixed doubles with her brother John. Her husband is teaming up with Wendy Turnbull. These distractions might just affect Evert's performance.

Andrea Jaeger and Tracy Austin meanwhile, are not in perfect physical condition. Hana Mandlikova, who has done very little since last year's finals, and Evonne Coolidge-Cawley are very unpredictable. The latter could upset almost anyone or could bow out in the very first round while Billie Jean King could do the same, too.

Predictions are meaningless in such a situation. But one thing is obvious: Wimbledon, which has increased the prize money and facilities for the players, is no longer as sacrosanct as it used to be.

More players are realising that they don't have to play at Wimbledon to become stars and millionaires. Still, the young breed of the calibre of Mats Wilander and veterans like Jimmy Connors and Evonne Coolidge-Cawley will let it reign supreme for years to come. Remember the gates in 1973 when all the professionals were out of the tourney? Even then they registered a record attendance.

Our critics know very little

In an exclusive interview with SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, the secretary of the All-India Football Federation, ASHOKE GHOSH, replies to the criticism the federation has been facing since it took up the responsibility of preparing the Indian team for the forthcoming Asian Games at Delhi

SPORTSWORLD The AIFF is becoming increasingly involved in controversies. Almost every decision and measure it adopts is liable to be disputed and criticised. What do you think are the reasons for such a situation?

ASHOKE GHOSH Yes, that is true to some extent. The AIFF has come under tremendous fire from various quarters since it has taken over the responsibility of preparing the Indian football team for the forthcoming Asian Games at Delhi.

This has resulted in a great deal of inconvenience with regard to the smooth working of the federation. We always found it difficult to take an honest decision lest it should touch off yet another round of criticism from the so-called sports pundits of our country, who in reality are not aware of the way things are being handled by the federation.

The fact is that most of the criticism is baseless, so there is no need for any controversy. They are being brought up deliberately and at times unwittingly by some people who are not really in a position to question the wisdom of the decisions of the federation.

By that I mean that they are not well informed and sufficiently conversant with the technical aspects of training, nor do they have the will to make an in-depth study of the whole situation before giving vent to their so-called expertise.

SW Who are these people? Do you mean the Press?

AG Well, I'm not blaming the Press as a whole. But to some extent a section of the Press has indulged in misrepresenting the actual state of affairs.

Take the case of team selection. Some people have grown used to taking for granted the fact that well-known players will be given a berth in the national team. These people do not bother to go to the coaching camps to assess the current situation and gauge for themselves the form of these players. Such a practice would give them a clear picture of the whole situation. Instead, they continue to nurture their own opinions that are formed on the basis of these players' past performances.

The point is that every player has

good and bad patches in his career. It is physically impossible for anyone to maintain the same form throughout one's career. A particular man may have played extraordinarily at some stage of his career, but it does not necessarily follow that he will always be at peak form.

The problem is that some people tend to base their judgements on the past performances of players. Some memorable feats achieved in the past by some players are referred to in order to justify their cases. 'Oh, Mihir, what an excellent player he is. Have you forgotten that beautiful goal he scored against China during the Nehru Gold Cup?'

Now this is something absolutely silly and childish. The authorities governing the most popular game in the country cannot go along with such nonsense, with the country's honour at stake. Had past performances been the only criterion then we need not have held so many camps. Our task would also have been much easier then, no doubt (laughs).

SW Do you think this is the case with the hue and cry that has been raised about Mihir's exclusion from the team?

AG Yes, absolutely so. The critic

Ashoke Ghosh



ism stemmed from the premise that since he had played well over the last couple of seasons he should be given a berth in the team. But what about his performances at the camp? Okay, let's forget about the camp. Let's come to the current football league. How is he doing there?

I don't think you would be honest if you said that his display is up to standard. And his showing at the camp was not very encouraging either. Yet there was this uproar raised by a section of the Press and we had to suffer it. The point is that these people only displayed their own ignorance by protesting. They did not understand the actual situation. And that is the story of the so-called controversies.

But that was not all. Even more serious charges were levelled against us regarding the living conditions at the Bangalore camp. At one stage it was said that the food served at the camp was not palatable. But that was an absolute lie. I had lunch there with the players on several occasions and I found the food all right. I wonder how these things find their way to the newspapers.

In fact, deliberate attempts are being made by some people to poison the whole atmosphere. I don't know whose interests are going to be served in this way but the fact is that we are now faced with two problems simultaneously. On one hand we have to fight against the charisma of some players in the matter of selection and on the other we have to shield the federation against misreporting.

We are really having a harrowing time trying to tackle all this.

Yet at the same time we have achieved considerable progress. Don't you think that India is now a much more powerful side after the training camp. Our showing in the Nehru Gold Cup bore this out, so too our performances in the President's Cup at Seoul.

SW But can you deny that complaints are coming from the players themselves?

AG Well, some players are dissatisfied and have begun grumbling against the decisions of the AIFF. But who are they? Most of these players have not even been selected.

Maybe they are not happy because they cannot accept the reality that they are not fit to be included in the national side. Perhaps disappointment has hurt them severely. Attempts are being made to create an issue out of that by blowing things out of proportion. I must make it very clear, however, that the sole criterion was performance and nothing else.

Take the case of Kartick Sett, whose exclusion has created quite a stir among soccer followers in the State. Nobody knows what an ordeal we had to go through before taking the final decision. Kartick was quite up to the mark. In fact, he was playing quite satisfactorily. But there was one person—whose name I can't mention—who was competing with him for place in the team. Both were equally good and we found ourselves in a very delicate and tricky position as we had to choose one of the two. There was only a hairbreadth difference in the respective performances of these two players.

But Kartick himself made the job easier for us to some extent by failing completely in the three trial matches. It was quite unexpected but we had to make our final decision on that basis. Besides, the other player who was competing for the spot continued to play very well.

Yet I must say that we all really felt bad about it, not only because Kartick missed the bus despite his best efforts and praiseworthy performances, but also because we knew that our decision was going to draw severe fire from various quarters, the reason being that Kartick had already made a name for himself and is a Calcutta player.

Here I would like to draw your attention to one very disquieting trend in the Calcutta Press. Whenever a player of this State is dropped from the team or not selected, a hue and cry is always raised. We face incredible criticism from every quarter.

But when a deserving player from any other province falls victim to injustice and get the axe not a word of protest is heard from you. This has been a long standing practice and it is spreading day by day. I've worse, when a Calcutta player of lesser calibre is preferred to a better player from any other State, you people keep mum. It shows how biased the Press has become.

SW: Coming back to the question of team selection, you are saying that Mihir's exclusion from the team was justified. Then, how do you account for the fact that Mihir was kept in the second team throughout the training at the Bangalore camp?

AG: No, there was no such thing as a second team at the camp. Even if there was one, it does not mean that only the discards were involved or for that matter, any injustice was meted out to these players by includ-



Mihir Bose—poor performance

ing them in the second team. True Mihir was there but wasn't Harjinder in the side too? He has been selected and thus was solely on the basis of his performance at the camp which was undoubtedly excellent.

SW: Who has the final say in the matter of team selection?

AG: Well, though the final decision making body comprises the President of the AIFF, the selection committee chairman, and myself, we depend on the opinions of the technical committee—the foreign technical director, Deitmer Pfeifer, Mohammed Basha, Ahmed Hossain, P. K. Banerjee, Hakim and Aroon Ghosh. They usually take joint decisions which we accept.

Of course this does not mean we always endorse their views without any question. We do express our doubts and misgivings, but that is only for the sake of discussion and exchange of opinions. However, I want to emphasise at the same time that we too have our rights and we do exercise them at times.

SW: Didn't PK have the final say?

AG: Yes, that is true to a large extent. On many occasions I have seen the other members of the technical committee defer to his opinions, especially during discussions and debates among themselves. The

We always found it difficult to take an honest decision lest it should touch off another round of criticism from the so-called sports pundits of our country who in reality are not aware of the way things are being handled by the federation.

others have given their views, forwarded their suggestions, but in the end they have accepted PK's choice.

SW: But of late rumour has it that PK no longer enjoys that degree of control over things. The opinions of Deitmer Pfeifer are being given more importance than those of the national coach. Is this true?

AG: No absolutely not. This is nothing but a rumour. Pfeifer also gives his views but priority is always attached to PK's suggestions. Even during the last selection process, on one occasion we had resorted to voting over the choice of a player whose name I'm not disclosing.

After the voting we heard Pfeifer say that we should give preference to PK's decision. Actually, our choice was restricted between two players of almost equal merit and we were at a loss about whom to take. In such situations we generally leave the choice to the national coach.

SW: Can you deny the fact that the AIFF is still ridden with group politics, causing much harm to the cause of Indian soccer?

AG: To tell you frankly at present we are rid of this malaise. I'm not going to comment on what happened in the past. The present selection process went through on a more or less unanimous basis without any ill feeling or misunderstanding among the decision making authorities. Everything has been carried out in a very frank, amicable atmosphere.

Maybe because we have now come so close to the Asian Games past differences have largely been buried. We are now concerned about only one thing—the performance of the Indian team. Our objective is to determine how the best can be achieved with such a short period to go before the final test.

The basic fact remains that if the team fails in the Asiad the blame will rest squarely on the AIFF. On the other hand, it is the AIFF to whom the credit will go if our team can come out with flying colours. This is the dominant feeling among the members of the federation at present.

SW: Then what about the differences you had to face over the question of captaincy?

AG: Well there were some differences, but we managed to tide over them.

SW: And there was a move to deny Bhaskar the honour of captaincy.

AG: Yes that's true. Actually, Harjinder Singh's name was strongly seconded for the post of captain.

SW: Who proposed it?

AG: Sorry, I can't disclose that. He is a top ranking official of the federation and I don't want to rake up the past. My point was that though Harjinder was a must in the team there was no reason to deprive Bhaskar of the honour.

SW: On what grounds was the name of Harjinder proposed?

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AG: Harjinder's seniority to Bhaskar. He had played in the India team before Bhaskar. Actually, when Bhaskar became the captain of the India team for the Nehru Gold Cup, Harjinder was injured and that was why he did not play in the matches. Later, before the last selection, it was reasoned that since Harjinder had recovered from his injury, the captaincy should go to him.

I raised the point that Harjinder was not one hundred per cent fit. There was still some uncertainty regarding his taking part in all the matches. Compared to that, Bhaskar had a definite advantage over Harjinder as captain. A goalkeeper captain is always an asset to the team as he can see all the moves of the players from behind. This helps him to direct the game. I insisted on these plus points.

SW: Did the coaches want Bhaskar to be the captain?

AG: Yes, everybody.

SW: Nobody proposed Harjinder's name?

AG: No.

SW: And yet you had to fight so hard to ensure Bhaskar's inclusion as skipper.

AG: Yes, I had to do that.

SW: Does not it go to show that officials intervene and try to impose their likes and dislikes whenever it comes to taking the most important decisions?

AG: Well, I have already told you that we have the right to put forward our suggestions and opinions.

SW: But can you describe these things as just offering one's views and suggestions?

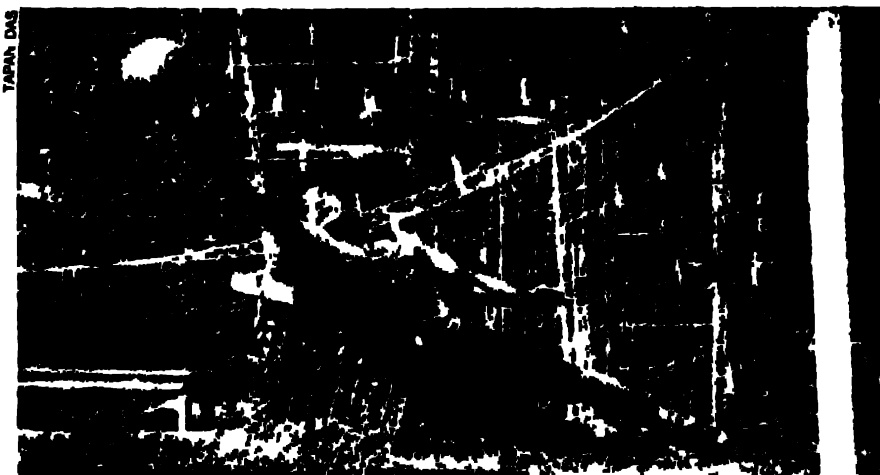
AG: Yes, why not?

SW: Anyway, do you think that the President of the AIFF, Mr. Ziauddin is trying to gain control over team selection through Deitmer Pfeifer and in this way to fight the dominance of Bengal players in the Indian team?

AG: Why do you think so?

SW: You must have heard of the strange theory of 'virgin eye' that he has been propagating lately which says that since Pfeifer is a foreigner his judgements on players must be free of bias. Surely this is a ploy to give him absolute sway in the matter of team selection?

AG: Look, if Ziauddin and Pfeifer had been in collusion, then Pfeifer would never have wanted Subrata in the team. Do you know who stood in



Bhaskar Ganguly in action—no cause for worry

the way of Subrata's inclusion in the team? (Mr. Ghosh provided the answer himself but insisted that it should be reconsidered off the record.)

Moreover, Deitmer has praised the Bengal players the most.

SW: What was the problem with Subrata?

AG: He was asked to play as a sweeper, not as a stopper. As I have heard from PK and Basha, Subrata performed brilliantly as a sweeper at Pyong Yong—one of the best in his career. We defeated China by four goals and Subrata's contribution was the most to that victory.

I don't know what happened to him after that. He declined to play in that position and stuck to his guns.

That was the beginning of the trouble. After that he was tried once again at Bangkok and played in his favourite position. Here again he could not repeat his earlier spectacular performances. Now, Pfeifer has prescribed the solution to his problems: that he should play as a sweeper. Subrata has been described as an ideal sweeper. He has ball control, his tackling is good, he is tall, a good header—the only man in that role.

SW: Then why was he not included in the team? There must have been pressure from the federation hierarchy to keep him out of the team. To be more specific, he had some trouble with the federation President Ziauddin and Subrata was in the latter's bad books. Isn't that the main reason for his ouster from the team?

AG: Well, that happened much earlier. Once Deitmer Pfeifer chose him, the problem was erased. Nobody objected to his inclusion in the team, not even Ziauddin. But it was he who declined to play as a sweeper. There was nothing more we could do.

SW: Do you also believe in the theory of "virgin eye"?

AG: Yes, I subscribe to this view of Ziauddin. We called Subrata to the camp because we believe that Deitmer is above all these controversies and personal problems. Therefore,

his opinion should be given precedence over all other factors. Some other players were also called up to the camp according to Deitmer's choice, for instance, Rebello and Francis De Souza. Rebello was actually asked by the federation to join the camp, but he failed to do so. As for the latter, Pfeifer considered him a good striker.

And if Francis can make his way into the team, then somebody will have to be dropped from the team of 26.

SW: Whom are you going to drop?

AG: Obviously, the person whose performance is the poorest.

SW: But would you agree that it is at such a stage that backstage manipulations and manoeuvres are mostly carried out?

AG: Yes, that's true. However, we can't help but depend on the report of the technical committee. This time we have adopted some measures to prevent such things. We have sought neutral opinions from some knowledgeable persons, like the chairman of the coaching committee Air Vice Marshal P. P. Singh, who had gone to Seoul with the team. He will provide me with his own view of things, devoid of any preconceived notion. And we will be able to crosscheck the report of the others against his.

All this time, we have been sending the full technical committee on tours abroad but we are now trying new methods to ensure an unbiased selection assessment of the players. That is not to say that the members of the selection committee are in-

Had past performances been the only criterion then we need not have held so many camps. Our task would also have been much easier then, no doubt.

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P. K. Banerjee—has the final say

dulging in favouritism but they are staying with the players. Naturally, there are chances that they might develop prejudices for or against certain players. What else can we do?

SW Was 26 the original number?

AG No, at first we planned to keep 29 players and six standbys in the team but we later reduced the number.

SW But you recently declared that none of the players will be released from the camp.

AG Yes I did. But later we found it necessary to change the decision.

SW Don't you think that the credibility of the federation suffered severely after you went back on your words?

AG Yes but we had no other option. Let me explain the whole thing. After the last camp the technical committee realised that some players would not be included in the team in all likelihood considering their performances in the training camps. In that case we thought it better to release them else their careers would have suffered. Besides they would have been psychologically handicapped sitting on the sidelines all the time, with their colleagues playing before their eyes. We decided to spare them such an ordeal. Today they are playing for their respective clubs. Now tell me, have we caused them any harm? Yet we had to suffer so much criticism. It's not healthy, it's not constructive.

SW But how do you account for the treatment meted out by the federation to Aloke Saha?

AG Once again I want to point out that questions are being raised about Aloke Saha only because he is a Calcutta player. Has anybody ever bothered to write a word about Ancil D'Silva, that luckless player who had attended all the camps from Salt Lake onwards? He left no stone unturned to win a place in the team, but had to leave the camp a dis-

appointed man. We were to take three goalies and we got them Bhaskar number one, Brahmanand number two and Atanu number three. It's a competition and the number of berths are limited. Hence, everybody cannot be included. Some people do not seem to realise that. It's a pity.

SW How would you assess the role of your President Mr Ziauddin who has become a controversial figure in Bengal?

AG If India can come out successful in the Asiad, the credit will go to nobody else but Ziauddin. He has been the leading spirit behind the entire enterprise. But for him, we could never have had such a scientifically chalked out training programme for our players. At first we were given a plan worked out by the NIS, but that was not up to the standard.

It was he who went to Kuwait and

Well, some players are dissatisfied and have begun grumbling against the decisions of the AIFF. But who are they? Most of these players have not even been selected.

got a detailed training scheme chalked out by the FIFA and AFC technical committees present there. After that the NIS plan was scrapped and we started working on the new one. But the pity is that deliberate attempts had been made and are still being made to create a misunderstanding between us by some people who want to reap profits from the resultant confusion. In fact, some problems did brew up between us at one time, but later we realised that they were caused by some people who actually want to gain control over the federation through a rift between us.

A lot of lies have been told to him about me in an attempt to breed enmity between us. People who have tried unsuccessfully to curry favour with him have come to me with the same purpose and vice versa. Their method has been to say things against one to the other. At one stage we could not figure out what was going on. The whole atmosphere was

But Kartick himself made the (selection) job easier for us to some extent by failing completely in the three trial matches. It was quite unexpected, but we had to make our final decision on that basis.



K. Ziauddin—the leading spirit

so poisonous that I could not see any way out of this impasse. Among those who hatched these conspiracies were some influential people from Calcutta.

But we tide over those periods of crisis and Ziauddin and I have taken a vow not to fall prey to the evil designs of those people any longer. We have made it a point that neither of us will make a statement or decision without prior consultation, even if that means my going down to Bombay or his coming here. We are going to prevent any further controversies and so far he has been greatly cooperative towards me. In fact I am to some extent indebted to him for the help he has rendered me.

SW Is Bhaskar going to be retained as captain of the team for the Asian Games also?

AG If he can maintain his form, nobody can dislodge him from his position. As I have already told you, the first qualification of the captain is that he must be a regular in the team. Therefore, if Bhaskar can remain the first goalkeeper, he will remain the captain too. And so far as the Seoul tournament is concerned he has no reason to be worried. His performance was fairly good there.

SW What about the construction work of the stadia where the matches will be held during the Asiad?

AG Everything is nearing completion very fast and likely to be completed by July. In September we are going to hold a mini tournament to check if all the systems and facilities are working properly. All the three stadia, the main stadium, Ambedkar and Model town will be used. It's a sort of dress rehearsal before the final show.

SW Has there been any attempt by the leading football clubs of the country, especially Calcutta, to get their players released from the camps?

AG No never. Cooperation from them has always been forthcoming.

CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Setback for Mohammedan S.C.

While the contest for the league honours has begun in right earnest, the 'Big Three' continue to show inconsistency. Though East Bengal and Mohun Bagan have kept their slates clean thus far, the defending champions Mohammedan Sporting met with a setback when they drew against Howrah Union **SUBHASH SARCAR** and **SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL** report on the matches

EAST BENGAL. The main reason for East Bengal's inconsistent performance so far in the current league has been their lack of a definite strategy without which a team cannot make any impression even when it wins a match by as convincing a margin as 3-0. That was precisely the case with the big club when they took on the weakest team in the running for the league title, Customs. One goal they scored in the first half and added two more in the second. Yet, never could they rise to the expected heights during the match, making a number of mistakes which are not expected of a top ranking team like them.

Firstly, they took a long time to bring cohesion in their game and remained more or less unsettled throughout the first half, while, on the other hand, the Customs forwards continued to make clever moves through short passes and quick movement, thus keeping the East Bengal defenders busy all the time. Not only that, they also came quite close to scoring on a number of occasions, threatening to cause a major upset in the league position so far. But poor finish and marksmanship proved their undoing.

So also was the case with the East Bengal forwards who kept missing

chances—quite a number of them being fairly easy—until Arup Das compensated for his earlier mistakes by banging in the first goal for his side.

The second session once again saw a number of easy chances to be missed by the East Bengal frontliners, Arup Das being the first to achieve such a feat.

EAST BENGAL's next match, against Wari, however, told a vastly different story. The team seemed to have left behind all their shortcomings that have been plaguing them constantly since the start

Kartick Sait infringes against a Wari defender. East Bengal won 2-0.



ARUP DAS

of the league and achieved an easy 2-0 victory over Wari. The secret of their improved performance was good combination between the half-liners and the forwards, all of whom worked tirelessly to send the rival defence in disarray. Added to it was the help coming from the deep defenders who, on one hand, made the defence zone virtually impregnable and initiated swift, clever moves on the other—something quite unseen so far in the league campaign. All this helped the two strikers Sujit Chakraborty and Kartick Sett to make repeated attempts on the Wari citadel. Even Amalraj was in splendid form. Shrugging off his lethargy, seen during the team's previous outings, he became a constant source of help for the forwards. Besides, he made some solo efforts also which unfortunately never ticked, due mainly to last minute tumbling, the ball flying over the crosspiece on one occasion or the shot being taken feebly on the other. But, relentless, he kept trying till the end of the match.

However, the man who played the most useful role was Balaji Mukherjee. Running like a shuttle between the offence and defence he coordinated the attacks and at the same time helped the other defenders at moments of need. In one word his was an all round performance, something seen for the first time in the Fast Bengal team in the current league.

On the other hand, Wari were always on the receiving end, busy most of the time containing the seemingly ceaseless forays from the Fast Bengal side. However, they made a few attacks, but they were not powerful enough to put the Bengal defenders in trouble. To sum up, this was a performance that must



Cussons goalkeeper Kushal Banerjee bats the ball before Md Akbar can make an attempt

have instilled tremendous confidence in the Fast Bengal players as well as their supporters.

MOHUN BAGAN A victory by a margin of four goals, which Mohun Bagan registered against Salkia Friends, is undoubtedly impressive. But, for Mohun Bagan it was not an unblemished win as they had to concede their first goal in the league, due mainly to their overconfident attitude towards the end of the game. Except for the goal the match proved to be yet another easy affair for the big club.

However, Mohun Bagan took some time to settle down, especially the defenders who seemed somewhat disoriented in the first 15-20 minutes of the game and the Salkia Friends forwards sought to reap profits from it by making quick inroads into the

Mohun Bagan defence zone, thereby creating some scoring opportunities which the Bagan defenders had a hard time to neutralise.

The forwards, however, were all ways on the lookout for an early breakthrough and eventually got it in the 14th minute. It was the result by a good combined move by Surajit Sengupta, Krishnendu Roy and Amitava Mukherjee who actually placed the ball into the goal. In fact, the three along with Krishanu Dey played with good understanding throughout the match and had little difficulty to tear apart the Salkia defence, which, of course, was too weak to contain the marauding Bagan front-liners.

As a matter of fact, the Salkia defenders could never settle down to play according to a definite strategy. After the initial forays, they went on the defensive allowing Mohun Bagan to continue to play an easy game for the most part of the match. Naturally, the Bagan players grew somewhat complacent after the fourth goal was scored and thus paved the way for Salkia to reduce the margin through Sakti Mitra who came into the team as a substitute.

To sum up, Mohun Bagan seemed to have no problem either in the defence or offence. Unlike their other two chief rivals who are not finding things very easy and having some anxious moments in almost every league match.

NEVERTHELESS, the green maroons put up an inexplicably lack-lustre performance in their next match, against Kidderpore. One reason for their dismal showing might have been that they never expected Kidderpore to offer them a very stiff challenge and naturally were taken by surprise when the latter's forwards seemed bent on keeping the ball in the Mohun Bagan territory. Naturally, their defenders had a harrowing time containing

Ulaganathan in agony after a robust tackle by a Salkia Friends defender



Celebrity and obscurity

A CELEBRITY at one place can be quite a non entity at another—one of those nameless, faceless unidentifiable teeming millions who throng the streets of the cities, clamour at the bustling markets or fight for a foothold in the moving death chambers of the Indian Railways. Those are times when stars come down to earth to rub shoulders with those people with whom life is a ceaseless struggle, every moment of it bringing a fresh threat to their existence. Then the glamour is switched off, the charisma eclipsed by the hard realities of life. And no special treatment is forthcoming from any quarter.

A few months ago this scribe was returning to Calcutta from Jamshedpur after the Ranji Trophy semi-final between Delhi and Bihar. The skipper of the victorious Delhi team, Mohinder Amarnath was coming to the city in the same train. At Howrah, no garlands awaited him, no cheers of admirers, only those red-shirted people—friends in need or cutthroats in distress, whatever you like to call them—were there to greet him. A few minutes later Mohinder was seen standing in a queue to get a cab, with a mountain of luggage stacked beside him. Quite a democratic scene, and no grumble.

But things are not quite like that always. Democracy has its other sides too. Just a few days ago, Habib, perhaps the most beloved footballer of Calcutta was coming to the city from Vijayawada. To get a second class ticket, he had to spend 10 rupees extra. Now this was a special treatment, but nobody looks forward to it.

But that was not all. Not a single man could

Maidan musings



recognize Habib when he was moving about in the crowded Vijayawada station on the lookout for a ticket, with no sign of help from anywhere. But as the train entered the Kharagpur station, Habib became Habib once again, with the vendors, passengers—whoever present there pushing each other in front of his compartment to get a glimpse of this veteran of Calcutta soccer.

Superstitions and soccer

DOES too much superstitiousness indicate lack of self-confidence? A debatable question, no doubt, but the fact is that few people on earth can claim to be free of superstitions, not to speak of professional people whose successes and failures are often caused by seemingly inexplicable reasons. Film stars, singers, businessmen, lawyers, never forget to perform certain rites and rituals before starting their day's work. It's a must which they cannot afford to do without—a sort of confidence-booster. And the marauders in the

maidan also are not quite averse to such things. Goales touching or kissing or even worshipping the goalposts is not a rare sight. Various superstitions surrounding dresses, boots and even grounds are not quite unheard of things. And what is most peculiar about these superstitions is that they are quite infectious and are also often imposed by seniors on their subordinates. The other day, before the start of a league match in which one of the three chiefs of Calcutta was to take on a junior team, one player of the club entered the ground without touching the soil of the ground—by mistake or otherwise. As soon as it was noticed by one of the club officials, the player was asked to come back. By then he had reached almost the far side of the ground so he had to walk all the way back and re-enter the field after performing that strange ritual.

Coincidentally, that day the team put up a dismal performance and nearly conceded a point to their inferior rivals.

This scribe wishes he could know whether the player was rebuked by the club officials after the match. Ludicrous, isn't it?

Over to Madrid

THE show is on once again—the greatest fiesta of soccer on earth—the World Cup. And the fever has broken out all over the world, for soccer is a global game, it knows no frontiers, nor any race or tribe. Wherever inhabit those crazy creatures called soccer fans, excitement is on the rise. And Calcutta is no exception. For the next few days the giants in action thousands of miles away in different stadia of Spain will be household names in this city.

The Maidan will be teeming over night with experts sharing and disputing each other's expertise and weaving fantasies around the stars every now and then. To top it all the media will gradually appear on the scene to take things to a climax.

So far, the focal point of interest, however, has been the fabulous prices of some of the current World Cuppers. In this respect, the man who has captured everybody's imagination is Diego Maradona, the wonder boy of Argentina the side that will be defending its title in the competition.

But the strange thing is that the players themselves are not be as interested in all this as their admirers. Among them, discussions still do not transcend the barriers of local and national football, not to speak of the premier competition of professional soccer. Of course, that is not to say that none of them are interested or for that matter all of them are totally disinterested in such things. The World Cup is too glamorous a thing to shut one's mind on. But surely, the eagerness is lacking.

wave after wave of powerful raids on their citadel. The pressure continued to increase with every passing minute and at one stage it seemed that Mohun Bagan would not be able to stave off a debacle.

Mohun Bagan's problems stemmed mainly from the failure of the medios who lacked coordination, speed and left vast areas unpoliced for the Kidderpore frontliners to make easy inroads into their goal-mouth.

This, however, was the story of the first 20 minutes of the game. Thereafter, Mohun Bagan sought to ride out of the difficult situation and started organising themselves quickly. The result was a few good moves inside the Kidderpore danger zone. But the opportunities created did not prove useful, partly due to poor finish on the part of the Bagan 'trikers', and largely to a superb game played by the Kidderpore custodian, Apurba Majumdar who brilliantly fisted out a powerful Dennis Williamson shot. Eventually, Mohun Bagan got their only goal in the 20th minute through Krishanu Dey and managed to win this hard-fought battle.

MOHAMMEDAN S C The black-and-whites maintained their winning spree with a thumping 4 nil victory over a disjointed Port Trust. However, the home team's display on the day left little room for complacency as the goals—two in each half—were scored through stray assaults, although they had the edge. The frontliners lacked cohesion and added to it was Majid's subdued performance. "Majid was off-colour today as he has not yet fully recovered from the injury sustained at Patna during the Sanjay Gandhi

Debasis Ray (not in picture) shoots past diving Port custodian Tanumoy Bose in Mohammedan S C's 4-0 triumph.



Debasis Ray heads in off a flag kick against Howrah Union. The tie ended in a one-all draw.

Gold Cup. But I hope he will soon be fit", said Naveem, the Mohammedan coach.

The home side began with a bang by netting twice within eight minutes of play. This was really a setback for Port Trust who gave a good account of themselves last season. The Port medios were mainly to blame for this debacle. They left wide gaps for the rival strikers to attack their citadel. Mohammedan's first goal could have been averted had the wingback and stopper Alok Saha and Alok Biswas not lacked in understanding allowing an un-

marked Debasis Ray to place the ball past Tanumoy Bose off a Debasis Mishra throughpass. Incidentally, Mohammedan's medio Mishra has been playing consistently and it was his brilliant high volley that found the net following a flag kick. "My midfield players failed utterly whereas the opponent medios performed really well. Also, the rear line seemed to be off key. Surprising!" said the Port coach Achyut Banerjee.

Khabazi was the best among the three Iranians, though Jamshed sent a neat header to score the team's third goal, which came after 40 minutes off a Pem Dorji free kick lob. "My defenders also failed. Jamshed was unmarked," stated the Port coach Dorji who was overlapping frequently and that caused the Portmen constant worry. Perhaps Port would have done well had they replaced the medios, instead of the forwards. Mani replaced Shankar Adhikari and Nasir Ahmed guarded the Mohammedan citadel after goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh retired for pain in his back.

Port did make a number of raids, but the forwards tended to play individually. Even the little they could do was time and again foiled at the top of the Mohammedan box. The best chance came Port's way a minute before the fourth goal. Prasad Tarafdar paced down the left flank beating a couple of rival players and centred but Kalyan Chanda was a bit late to head it. In retaliation, the home side increased the lead through none other than the off-form Majid when the ball rebounded off the Port goalie. Said Naveem: "The medios played well today but the forwards are yet to



combine properly though they are asserting themselves well Pratap Ghosh had to be replaced as he was complaining of a neck strain while Dorji was playing safe as a wing back "

BEFORE the season got under way Abdus Sattar, who coached the reigning league champions last year, said that his health would not permit him to train the black-and whites for yet another season. But that the coach has still not run out of breath was proved when Howrah Union shocked the reigning champions. After an one-all-draw a modest Sattar commented "What did I do? The boys played well." In fact, this shock for Mohammedan S C was imminent. But it, perhaps, came too soon—in their seventh encounter.

When East Bengal conceded a goal in their match against Railway F C the Mohammedan camp must have realised that their turn was also coming. They had their reasons: the forwards lacked combination and sharpness and the inconsistent support from the midfield and the defenders indicated problems ahead. And all expectations surrounding the Iranian trio the team now seem to have been behind, though Khabazi is making some efforts. Majid seemed to have lost his touch. This was quite noticeable during this match. The only good thing he did on the day was a fine swerving flag-kick which



Referee Santu Gupta shows the yellow card to Mohammedan S C's Shankar Adhikari during their 1-1 drawn match with Howrah Union.

the rival custodian Hyder Ali Mondal failed to collect and Debasis Ray heading the ball into the net. In fact, Majid should have been withdrawn much earlier. One doubts whether Majid will be completely fit for the rest of the season.

This draw should be looked upon as an indication of what the future might have in store for them. The

home team should have performed better on heavy ground conditions like their opponents.

But nothing went right for them. They played aimlessly and made a series of mistakes. Howrah restored parity after 18 minutes through striker Ashok Kumar. The defence—mainly skipper Moudul Islam and Pem Dorji was responsible for this lapse. Goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh had no option but to leave the citadel. Retaliation was the only answer after the breather, but Mohammedan S C continued to fail miserably and it was the opponents who made a couple of moves that might have spelt dangers for Mohammedan S C.

Anyway, Howrah's best chance came in the 24th minute when Shibaji Ray, after receiving the ball from Ashok Kumar, had Pratap Ghosh at his mercy. But Ray shot straight into Pratap.

The match tended to be rough. But referee Santu Gupta had complete control over the situation. Three players were shown the yellow card. When missiles were being thrown on to the ground after the equaliser the referee sought the police's help which came promptly, followed by a mild lathicharge. A club official stated that it was sheer luck that saved them. Coach Naveem said "It was really unfortunate for us." The debacle is just a forewarning. Take heed.

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ASIAN TABLE TENNIS

Top spin blunted

V. Chandrasekhar, the Indian men's team captain, explains the factors which led to his team finishing a poor seventh at Jakarta, to PARTAB RAMCHAND

THE Indian men's team performed brilliantly at the 1980 Calcutta Asian Table Tennis Championships to finish fourth, a position they had never before achieved. They did well against Japan before losing 2-5 and then against North Korea, were ahead miraculously 4-2 before losing 4-5. Only against the formidable Chinese, who ultimately swept all the titles, did they suffer a bad (0-5) defeat. But with notable victories over Indonesia and Australia, the team did the country proud by finishing as high as they did.

Against this background, the fact that India finished as low as seventh—a fall of three places—in this year's Asian championship held at Jakarta last month should cause concern. India lost to both Australia (2-5) and Indonesia (0-5) this time. The team also suffered a 3-5 defeat at the hands of Hong Kong. Even in the individual events, the players did themselves little credit particularly after their promising showing in this year's Commonwealth championship at Bombay. Manmeet Singh's and Indu Puri's entry into the quarter-finals were the only crumbs of comfort.

Sportsworld talked with Venugopal Chandrasekhar about the team's performance shortly after his return from Jakarta. The 25-year-old Indian captain, who has always been candid, did not mince words. "We have suffered defeats before," he said. "But for the first time there was a sense of disappointment and frustration at the setbacks. Because, it was not so much the skill of the players that bothered us, but too much hinged on the surface of the bat."

Chandrasekhar went on to elaborate this point. "You see, 90 per cent of the players have switched to the new anti-top spin variety of rackets. This was in use even before but now there is a new twist to the technique. With the use of this racket, one does not know till the last moment which way the ball will spin, whether it will skid off the table, or whether it will just stop short. It is near impossible to judge the pace for the colouring on both sides of the bat are the same. I feel that there should be some

regulation in that at least the colouring of the rubber on both sides should be different. That would be fair."

Actually, the playing surface of the racket caused some controversy even during last year's World Championship at Novi Sad. It came in for close scrutiny by the International Table Tennis Federation but even though a great deal of fuss was created, nothing was done to ban or curtail its use. This was because, according to Chandrasekhar, "China has a strong hold on the ITTF affairs." Predictably China—which has been sweeping all before them in recent international tournaments—would not like its "secret weapon" to be controlled. The super anti-top spin surface was developed by the Japanese but the Chinese have apparently improved upon it.



Sriram (left), Chandrasekhar and Manjit Dua

Chandrasekhar said that because of all this "we were caught off guard" and were no match for our rivals. When asked why the Indian players had not switched over to such rackets, Chandrasekhar immediately took out his bat and showed it to me. He had relaid the entire surface with super anti-top spin rubber and said that he had commenced practice with it. "At least now I can get used to the surface and other players while playing with me, can also have valuable practice." But he felt that the new

rubber might not suit some of our players. "Manjit's style, for example, is not suited to anti-top spin surfaces," he said.

Another factor that probably led to the Indian team's poor show was the lack of a defensive player. "At Calcutta, we had Arun Kumar and Sudhir Phadke. Now the former has left the country and the latter is past this best. If one is a defensive player, one can combat the dangers of super anti-top spin more effectively. With Jagannath also out of the game, we have practically no defensive players," he bemoaned. "More than 50 per cent of the world's players had switched to anti-top spin rubber, over 30 per cent were now defensive players in an effort to challenge this threat and not more than 20 per cent were the normally attacking players," Chandra said.

It is obvious from Chandrasekhar's remarks that we remain totally in the dark regarding the latest techniques of the game. While we continue to use outmoded methods of coaching other nations are developing latest techniques, devastating in effect, and more often than not, catch their rivals by surprise. Something should be done to see that we are not behind in adapting these techniques.

Chandrasekhar, has always been practical in his outlook. Thus he was guarded about the future. When asked about the prospects in the Asian Games at New Delhi, he said, "We should do well, but it will be difficult to finish above the fifth position. Since besides China and Japan, Korea is fielding two teams I say this in spite of the fact that we are most likely to go to North Korea for a short coaching stint in this month. Then we will have a two-month camp at Patiala. But with all this, the lack of a good third player is always to be felt. Sujay Ghorpade will have to be watched after his visit to China. The only other young hopefuls are Rajat Kathuria and Kamlesh Mehta. The lack of a good third player always puts more pressure on the other two and Manmeet Singh and myself often play under tremendous pressure."

Asked about young Chandramouli, who was making his first trip abroad, Chandrasekhar said that he could not pass full judgement on the Tamil Nadu star. "He either played against someone who was very weak or someone who was very strong and that was rather unfortunate for one making his debut."

The Indian captain had words of praise for the women's squad which finished one position ahead compared to Calcutta—fifth instead of sixth. He also said that he did not observe any drastic changes in the approach and techniques of the top teams. "The accent is still on speed, a good serve and physical fitness," he concluded.

Always after the ball



Fielding is as important, if not more, as batting and bowling. It is the bowler-fielder combination that eventually matters and advantageous results are achieved. It is a great sight to watch a fielder make an acrobatic dive or display uncanny anticipation to take a spectacular catch which may play a decisive role in the outcome of a match. Similarly, fielders display their agility in preventing a boundary or restricting it to a mere single. It is said—and rightly so—that every run saved is a run made.

The laws concerning fielding have undergone various changes. About 100 years ago, the law specified that a 'hat' was a part of the 'person' of a fielder. This led to some controversies in 1884. In the Middlesex-Notts match at Trent Bridge, I.D. Walker's hat dropped as he ran up to deliver the ball. Scotton drove the ball, and it was obstructed by the hat. The umpire granted a penalty of five runs to

the batsman and the batting side. This was considered a wrong decision as Walker's action could not be regarded as 'deliberate' or 'wilful'.

Again, in the Sussex-Gloucestershire match at Cheltenham in 1932, Melville took a single off Parker when T.W. Goddard stopped the ball with his cap at long-off. The umpire awarded four more runs to Melville as the law then said that 'five runs should be added to the score' in such a situation.

In May 1936, the

law was amended, which read "The fieldsmen may stop the ball with any part of his person, but if he wilfully stops it otherwise, five runs shall be added to the score, if no run has been made, five shall be scored. The penalty shall be added to the score of the striker, if the ball has been struck, otherwise to the score of bves, leg-byes, no balls or wides, as the case may be."

In the event of a fielder deliberately kicking the ball to the boundary to prevent a particular batsman from retaining the strike, four runs are added to the runs already made.

Writing on strange cases of fielding, Mr Gerald Brodribb says, "Long throwing depends upon climate and there have been bitterly cold days in England when every fielder must have wished he had one of those old-fashioned hand warming gadgets. It is on record that in 1892 when the MCC met Oxford University, the weather was so cold that the fielders wore gloves, and

there was a match at Scarborough in 1866 in which everyone wore an overcoat. This was not the only time when the overcoats have been worn. Some players in the Notts side wore them when fielding, while Hampshire batted for one minute on the third day of a match at Southampton in 1930."

Here are some problems

Q. An umpire is taken ill or injured during the match. Can a substitute umpire be appointed?

A. There is no option



but to appoint a substitute umpire.

Q. One of the 11 players does not participate in the first innings from the start of the match. Can he be allowed to bat or bowl in the second innings?

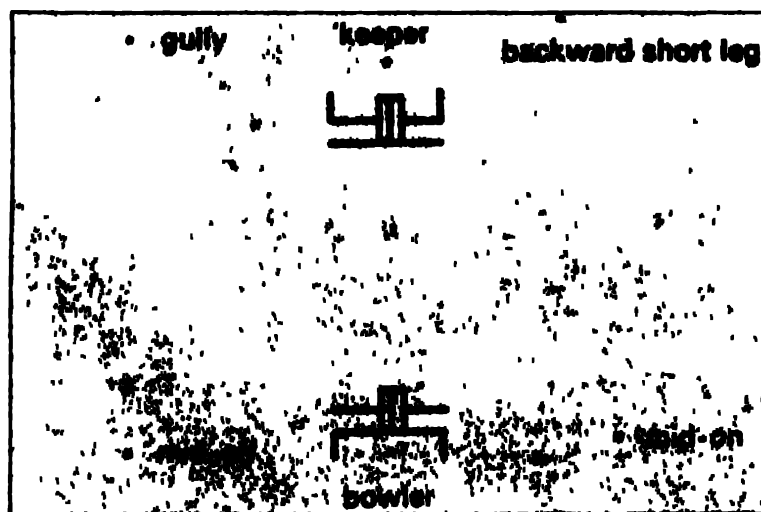
A. There is nothing in the laws that forbids him from taking part in the second innings. But the opposing captain is well within his rights not to allow a substitute for the player in the first innings.

Q. When the second run is nearing completion, an over-throw results in a boundary. How many runs will be added to the score?

A. The laws say that the run in progress counts, provided the batsmen have crossed at the time of the throw. In view of this, six runs will be added to the score.

Q. The ball strikes an object within the playing area. Can the batsman be caught or run out?

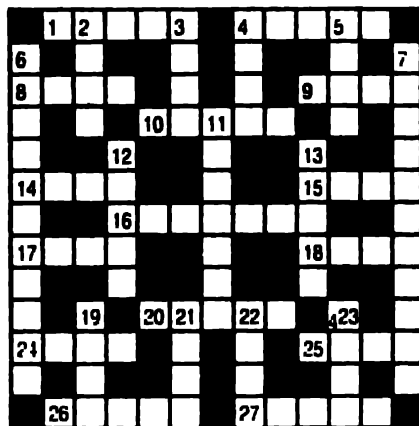
A. It depends. If the teams have declared the thing as 'boundary', then, and then alone, the batsman cannot be out.



Crossword

IMUDAR

153



ACROSS

- 1 Tom of Holland who is a tennis player (5)
- 4 What Boycott has been nicknamed (5)
- 6 Revolutionary cricketing body from Delhi led by an MP (1 1 1 1)
- 9 Nearc tennis player has a masculine ending (4)
- 10 You must have a good this to win a sprint event (5)
- 11 Oriental direction for an Essex spin bowler who is also a comedian (4)
- 15 Matches are sometimes Home and sometimes this (4)
- 16 Holding was compelled to break his contract with this Lancashire Club this season (7)
- 17 This Chand is a long distance runner (4)
- 18 Ricard of the tennis world (4)
- 20 Former West Indian pace bowler and also hard-hitting batsman begins with a youngster (5)
- 24 Chess man returns (4)
- 25 The last cricketer to hit a triple century in Tests (1)
- 26 Swimming term (5)
- 27 The Bridge where Hadice and Rice hold sway (5)

DOWN

- 2 You often get this labelled as 'Free in soccer' (4)
- 3 Odd name for a former England cricketer (4)
- 4 A grounded shot that hits the fence fetches this (4)
- 5 Flowery name for Somerset's captain (4)
- 6 Former Malaysian badminton player, who won the All-England four times (5 6)
- 7 British boxing hero of the early half of the Sixties (5 6)
- 11 Toxophily (7)
- 12 A pitch as it is crudely referred to as (5)
- 13 Knight's equipment or West Indian spinner's first name? (5)

- 19 Two zeroes in one game of cricket is this (4)
- 21 Surrey's homeground (4)
- 22 The young of a horse and a young cricket side are the same (4)
- 23 Promising Tasmanian batsman (4)

Excellent 28-25 Good 24-21, Fair 20-17

Quiz

Karpit Ghosh

QUESTIONS

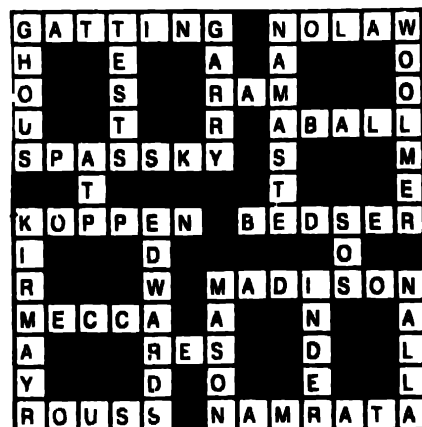
What do the following expressions mean?
(The name of the appropriate sport is given within brackets)

- 1 Yamashita (Gymnastics)
- 2 Dogleg (Golf)
- 3 Swallow Swan dive (Diving)
- 4 Cowboy (Cycling)
- 5 Buttonhook (Basketball)
- 6 O'Brien Technique (Athletics Shot put)
- 7 Cornermen (Boxing)
- 8 One-two (Soccer)
- 9 Gardening (Cricket)
- 10 Dump (Volleyball)

ANSWERS

- 1 The block with his fingertips
- 2 A take which involves a
- 3 A take which involves a
- 4 When a batsman produces the wicket
- 5 The first
- 6 When a batsman produces the wicket
- 7 An exchange of passes between
- 8 Boxer's assistants in corner
- 9 The shot
- 6 The orthodox method of shot put
- 5 Change of direction as player drives
- 4 Rules of etiquette
- 3 A forward dive where arms are stretched wide until just before

SOLUTION 152



useb pue eei usewteq
thou jo tte of pueq dray with eioh
esoy seleei jaei
se paitncee si eikid a eieww 'nast
-wlyg esuader jeyw paitwa

Question box

Prabir Guha, Chabua

Q What is the highest career aggregate in Ranji Trophy? Who made it?

A Vijay Hazare of Maharashtra, Central India, Maharashtra and Baroda, who between 1934-35 and 1960-61 scored the highest aggregate of 6312 runs at an average of 68.60 in 71 Ranji Trophy matches

Jagdish Prasad Agarwal, Burnpur

Q Which batsman has scored the fastest century for India in Tests?

A D N Sardesai recorded the fastest century for India, when he reached his century in 127 minutes in the fourth Test against New Zealand at Delhi in 1964-65

Joy Bose, Patna

Q Did Sandeep Patil bowl in the Jubilee Test in Bombay in 1980?

A Yes, he bowled three overs and conceded eight runs in the second innings

C R Seetha Raghava, Tumkur

Q Please give the scores of each English batsman during their highest total of 903 for seven wickets declared against Australia at The Oval in 1938

A Len Hutton 364, Bill Edrich 12, Maurice Leyland 187, Walter Hammond 59, Eddie Paynter 0, Denis Compton 1, Joe Hardstaff, Jr 169 not out, Arthur Wood 53, Hedley Verity 8 not out, Ken Farnes and William Bowes did not bat. Extras were 50 comprising 22 byes, 19 leg-byes, 8 no-balls and 1 wide

Bhaskar Mukherjee, Patna

Q Who is the bowler who has captured the maximum number of wickets in Tests?

A Dennis Lillee of Australia, who has captured 328 wickets in 63 Tests

V Balachandran, Calcutta

Q What were the scores of Beven Congdon of New Zealand in the series against India in 1964-65?

A Beven Congdon of New Zealand had made 9 and 0 at Calcutta, 3 and 14 at Bombay and 48 and 7 at Delhi in the season of 1964-65 in India

Q. Who was the first Test batsman to score a triple century?

A Andrew Sandham of England who hit 325 in the fourth Test against the West Indies at Kingston in 1929-30. It was his farewell appearance in Tests

Ashish Kumar Chowdhury, Ranchi

Q What is the Test bowling record of Iqbal Qasim of Pakistan and Bruce Yardley of Australia?

A Before the Tests against Sri Lanka, Iqbal Qasim of Pakistan had captured 89 wickets for 2744 runs in 29 Tests, twice taking over 5 wickets in an innings and twice over 10 wickets in a match. Bruce Yardley of Australia has bagged 82 wickets for 2471 in 22 Tests four times crossing 5 wickets in an innings

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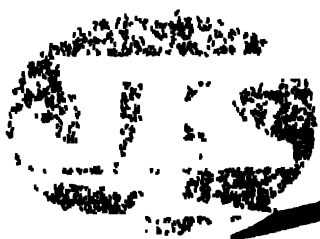
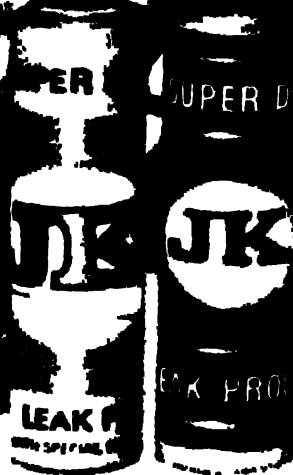
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A Legend in Wool is also Co



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Five-time champion BJORN BORG in an exclusive article, points out that the All England Club must show a willingness to come to terms with the problems of the players

**12** WORLD CUP FOOTBALL 82
One striking feature of the 1982

12 One striking feature of the 1982 World Cup has been the promise the so called weaker footballing nations have shown to become a force to reckon with in the near future. **ARJIT SEN** reports from Spain

32 RAIN AND PATIL SAVE INDIA

Sandeep Patil made a comeback to Tests with a powerful century and provided a refreshing angle to a match marred by rain. The draw has ensured that the series cannot be won. **MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI** reports.



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Letters to the Editor

Shuffles needed

THIS writer has been following Indian and world cricket ever since Jack Ryder's Australian team came to India (*Jan 1935-36 Editor*). I know that India cannot always win a Test match but the only regret is that it gets defeated ignominiously and not after giving a stiff challenge.

I venture to suggest that Vishwanath and Doshi should be dropped once and for all from the Indian side. We find that Kapil for India and Botham for England give their teams the necessary life by taking four or five vital wickets and scoring 40 odd runs or so. Why should not Vishwanath then—who is a more experienced player—at least stick around and score those many runs. We the lovers of the

game, are interested in his serving the country and not in his flicks, cuts and flashes right from the word 'go'. As a slip holder if he fails to stop the ball he is unable to chase it and stop it from crossing over the boundary line. If the mighty Board and Sunil Gavaskar want him to remain in the team they should see to it that he bats at number 10 to ensure better partners for Syed Kirmani and Madan Lal.

I. R. DOSS,
New Delhi

Final say

CONSIDERING India's recent effort of putting it across to England at Old Trafford and the traditional penchant for batting resoundingly always in the second innings, I feel that it is no longer necessary for her to play her second innings first!

ASHOK K. MAITH
Calcutta

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Sandeep Patil, one of India's most aggressive batsmen, whose punishing strokes can punch the daylights out of some of the best bowling, confesses "One of the biggest problems I have to watch out for is a pulled muscle." With his kind of batting style, that's a professional hazard. "But," says Sandeep, "I've found the answer. I just rub Iodex—and I'm back in action."

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Bjorn Borg's viewpoint

Every time I walk out to my court I have pangs of regret that it isn't Wimbledon

Islet of Kattilo
June 10

I am sorry to hear about Wimbledon's troubles—the bad weather, poor crowds and the huge backlog of matches. But I sometimes wonder if they do enough to help themselves.
For me, Wimbledon will always be the greatest sporting event in the

world, and, despite my bitterness at not being allowed to play there this year, I hate to see it being criticised.

However, perhaps it is time Wimbledon broke with one major tradition, and started play earlier in the day. It is the only major tournament which starts at two pm. In the United States, Australian and French Championships, we always begin at eleven in the morning.

The story is that the All England members insist on a two pm start—barring exceptional cases when bad weather has caused a pile up of matches—because they want to enjoy their lunch.

Personally, it doesn't bother me, but I know some other players get quite angry about it. Maybe there should be a compromise, with a daily start at noon.



Head groundsman Jim Thorn displays his helplessness as rain runs Ladies' Day. Borg feels that Wimbledon authorities should pay no heed to the players who demand that hard courts be installed.



John McEnroe gathers his equipment with a frown as rain puts paid to his match against Eddie Edwards. According to Borg, a good start was of prime importance for the defending champion.

I believe the real reason why play starts so late is that Wimbledon feel the grass courts need the morning to dry out any overnight dampness. The players' retort to this is that it is time Wimbledon dug up the grass and installed hard surface courts.

That may well be the majority view among the players but it certainly is not mine.

I like grass. It took me a long time to adapt my game but I learned to play on it, so why shouldn't others?

Wimbledon grass is probably the

best in the world for tennis. The tournament could never be the same, played on any other surface. I urge them to resist all attempts to make them change. Knowing them, I have no doubt that The Championships will always be played on grass.

I have spent the week practising here on Kattilo, my summer island home, but my mind has been very much on Wimbledon. Every time I walk out to my court I have pangs of regret that it isn't Wimbledon.

I feel really depressed at not being there, although had I gone just to watch I know that the feeling would have been worse. I don't think I could have stood it.

It is flattering to hear that so many people—including John McEnroe—have said that Wimbledon is poorer without me. I think the tournament is missing the likes of Ivan Lendl and myself—and we miss Wimbledon, too.

The English phrase "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" is certainly true as far as Wimbledon and I are concerned. What all this probably proves is that we need each other, and it makes me all the more determined to be back next year.

The results so far don't alter my original prediction that Jimmy Connors will win the men's title and Martina Navratilova the women's. John McEnroe is clearly worried about his ankle injury, and I know how he must be feeling.

When I won one of my five titles I was suffering from a stomach injury. John is a good enough player to overcome all but the very best of opposition when less than one hundred per cent fit.

The injury probably bothers him more on grass, so with the damp weather this might be a problem if it does not heal soon. It is so important that he has a good start and gets his confidence, for he can be such a nervous player.

My personal view is that the biggest threat to Connors will come not from McEnroe but my good friend Vitas Gerulaitis. The American is really the dark horse of the tournament, seeded third and in Jimmy's half of the draw.

Although I beat Vitas 7-6, 7-5, 7-6 last year it was not as one-sided as the straight sets results suggest. All the sets could have gone either way.

Vitas is an extremely difficult man to play on grass, which suits his improved service. He likes to come in to the net and has such tremendous aggression. Maybe, this will be his year.

What did shock me was the defeat of last year's finalist Hana Mandlikova in the women's singles. I know she has had a few problems with her form but I expected her to reach the semi-finals.

I am sure we will be hearing a lot in the future about the American girl who beat her, Candy Reynolds.



Vitas Gerulaitis in Borg's estimation, the dark horse of the tournament.

Wimbledon's adopted son fails yet again

ASHIS RAY reports on the progress of Vijay Amritraj, who has built up, over the years, a close affinity with the Wimbledon fans. After a testing five set battle with Jeff Borowiak, he teetered on the brink with big-serving Roscoe Tanner before succumbing in five sets



FOUR times in the past nine years has Vijay Amritraj been at the losing end of classical or near classical five-setters. In 1973 he went down to Jan Kodeš, and more recently to Bjorn Borg, Jose Luis Clerc and Jimmy Connors. In fact, his quarter-final clash with the last mentioned 12 months ago was one of the matches that set the 1981 tournament alight.

This year, he had toiled through the qualifying rounds—the most conspicuous player to do so—and was pitted against the enterprising American Jeff Borowiak, who, though 33 is still a tough nut to crack, even in an extended encounter.

The tie, in fact, was allotted to court number four—one of the outside arenas—on the opening day, but when ultimately contested, on the first Thursday, it was moved up to the more prestigious court number one.

Somehow, and one must give them credit for this, the authorities at the All England can smell a thriller, and more often than not thrilling exhibitions seem to take place in a more central setting by virtue of which not only do more spectators get a 'live' view of proceedings, but television gets the opportunity to revel in it too.

Most people, of course, should not, and perhaps, did not sense anything special, as Amritraj was in pretty good form and was more or less expected to get past Borowiak with a reasonable amount of comfort. But the American had different ideas, and it proved to be the first of the top class matches at this year's Wimbledon.

Amritraj is known to be of fickle temperament and to a certain extent an exercise like waiting for four days was likely to upset his concentration. Whatever the circumstances, Borowiak exceeded expectations and Amritraj, to start with, performed poorly in the crucial points to lose the first two sets 6-7, 4-6.

It was not that the Indian was performing atrociously. The silky smoothness was quite omnipotent, but what was absent was precision—that extra bit in timing if you like. And this had resulted in a situation exactly the reverse of the quarter final last year, when he led Connors two sets to love. The question was, however, could the conclusion be as sweet for the man trailing so badly?

One accolade Amritraj has not received in his career is that of 'a fighter' and all seemed lost, and what a waste it would have been in what is, perhaps, the most vital year for the Indian at the Wimbledon.

Only a few days ago Amritraj had argued in *Sportsworld* that people are unfair to him by not remembering the matches in which he has come from behind to win, citing his victory over Brian Teacher last year.

as one such example. But frankly, it would be hard to find an instance where the Indian has triumphed in a major tournament.

This, however, he put right, for he grabbed the next three sets against Borowiak 6-3 6-4 and 6-3. He had taken a bit of time to fall into the groove, but once he did, he revealed a new dimension in his game—a feature not visible even three and a half months ago when I saw him last in California in the Davis Cup.

I refer, of course, to his baseline game, and especially his backhand. Previously, this aspect of his repertoire possessed the customary flashing look about it, but it lacked consistency and control, and perhaps, variety, as well.

On this day at Wimbledon, however, he showed a new ability to change the direction of his shots, with a last second turn of the wrists, and with impunity. And he did it several times when on the gallop. There was still that fierce flat forehand, but at the same time there was more evidence of top spin and back spin, as well.

Yes, the snake charmer's magic appeared at Wimbledon in full bloom, and poor Borowiak did not know what struck him. The American did, of course, break back after surrendering his serve in the fifth set, but Amritraj went ahead again, and again to run out a sensational winner.

More important in these days of gross tantrums, it was a pleasure to watch two sportsmen at work, each applauded the other's incisiveness, one could not help but feel that this was the true manifestation of the term "Gentlemen's Singles."

It was perhaps, impossible for a man to win two matches in a row from being two sets to love down. And had it occurred, it would have gone down as a Wimbledon record in recent times.

But it was not to be, and Vijay Amritraj, the star of India, went down in five sets to fourteenth seeded Roscoe Tanner of the United States after a titanic tussle.

Just five days previously, Amritraj had lost the first two sets to the American Jett Borowiak, but taken the match in five. Then, the Indian had a much easier time getting past Pascal Portes of France, and the stage was set for the big clash between him and Tanner for a place in the last sixteen of the tournament.

The All England Club authorities, anticipating a thrilling encounter, allocated the match to one of the "show" courts at Wimbledon, and a classic it turned out to be.

Amritraj, again, started slowly against the cannonball serves of the American, who tallied nineteen aces in the encounter. Though it basically boiled down to who would lose his service first, the Indian was the one to serve poorly just once in each of the sets to surrender them both.



Roscoe Tanner finally managed to end Vijay's quest

Tanner kept up the tremendous pace in his service, but Amritraj found a way to get around the lightning deliveries. With low returns which forced the American to half volley, and thereby, commit errors, he drew level to two sets all amidst deafening applause from the stands.

Indeed, when the final set began, Amritraj looked the stronger of the two, and Tanner escaped by a hair's breadth from losing his serve in the fourth and sixth games. In fact, the American was down 15-40 in the second of these games, but rallied with the help of two mistakes on the part of his rival.

The second of these was a forehand put into the net, a shot that the tiring Amritraj should have anticipated better, and therefore been in position to execute with comfort.

Anyhow, the Indian champion relinquished his serve in the following game, mainly through unforced errors, and that was virtually the end of the match. The

slight let-up witnessed in Tanner's service disappeared immediately, and Amritraj was left wondering how fortune can be so cruel. He had missed the bus yet again.

Admittedly, Tanner this year is in excellent form. And once his service clicks on grass, it is difficult for most players to beat him. Indeed, those who watched him in the Wimbledon final against Bjorn Borg in 1979 know only too well how tiresome this can be. Versus Amritraj he served as well as he did three years ago, which is some indication of the uphill task that confronted the Indian.

But Tanner, other than his scorching service, is a pretty ordinary player, and Amritraj in current form, despite being unseeded, was expected to trouble the American. But the harsh reality of it all is he did not triumph, and at the age of 29 he must have, at last, lost hopes of ever winning Wimbledon.

What a pity, for when he was young he certainly had as much potential as Borg and Connors.

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Swedish sensation Mats Wilander watches the tennis along with friend Annette Olsen



US contender Zina Garrison



Veteran Billie Jean King displays a plate commemorating her hundredth appearance in the Ladies' Singles Championship

WORLD CUP '82 Gathering of the storm

The final countdown has begun. With the second phase already halfway through, the protagonists are now preparing for the climactic battles ahead. But one striking feature of the tournament so far has been the promise shown by the so-called weaker footballing nations. Cynics might have written them off, but they have proved that they might come back with a vengeance next time. ARLJIT SEN reports from Spain

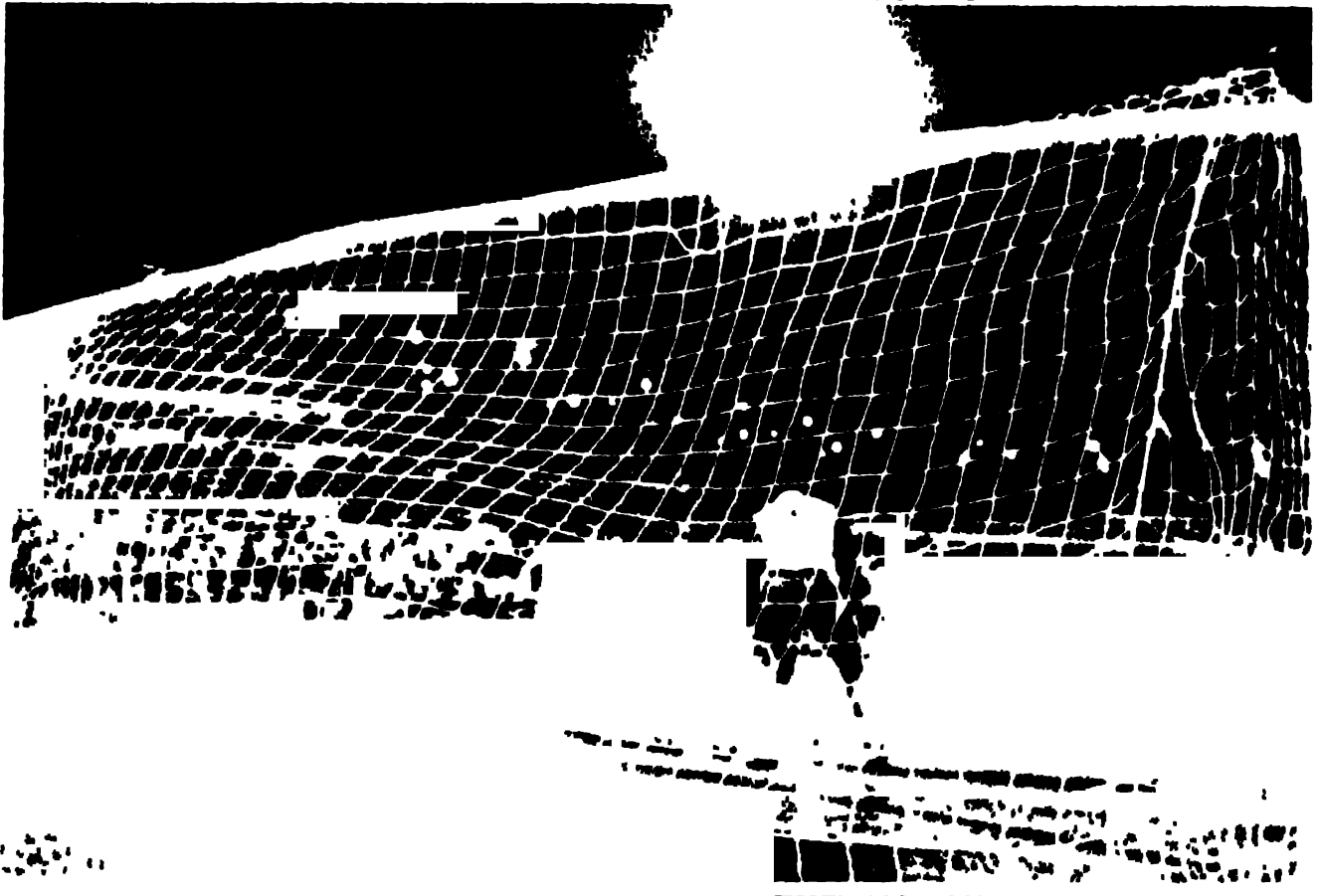
A WORLD CUP is always a sentimental affair. Teams from all parts of the globe—armed only with their skills and a few thousand supporters—come to do battle ostensibly for national honour but actually to prove that the people's game is far and away the best spectator sport

the world has ever known. There are teams from affluent countries, from developing ones and from rank poor nations. The game they play is the same but the approach and styles are refreshingly different.

This time, the variety was far greater than ever, because 24 teams

participated in a competition that had started out with just 13, way back in 1930. Naturally quality seekers felt cheated, much like the early colonialists, who felt they were a class apart from the natives. But, from the start of the competition, it was clear that football had travelled

Yugoslavian player Vladimir Petrovic scores from a penalty in the last minute of their World Cup game against Honduras





Kempes proclaims his innocence after a tough tackle during the Argentina-Belgium tie

Sidelights

WORLD CUP

Refereeing problems

THE World Cup has seen several surprises, but none more so than the abysmal standard of refereeing. Friends and foes of each team have admitted that the supervision of several matches has been biased to the point of blatant partisanship. And this has, expectedly, been most true of matches featuring Spain.

Twice, they have been "blessed" with penalties. Once, when the penalty kick did not produce a goal, a re-kick was ordered. Another time, the offence for which it was awarded, took place clearly outside the penalty area. These and other acts of omission and worse have not been ignored by the Spanish Press.

Some local papers have come out with the statement that the referees "have been our best strikers." Apart from that, several teams complained of bad supervision. Honduras, Kuwait, Northern Ireland. The list could continue.

FIFA have rejected an official complaint filed by Algeria after West Germany beat Austria. Algerian Football Association president, Hadj Benall Sekkal, alleged that the match was fixed and demanded the disqualification of both teams.

Rene Courte, a FIFA official, said after a meeting in Madrid on June 26 "We can't change in the meeting

room a result that was reached on the field." But it was clear to every spectator on the field that something was amiss. Horst Hrubesch scored for Germany in the tenth minute. For the next eighty minutes, a farce was enacted on the field, each team refusing to alter the margin. If Germany had beaten Austria by three goals or more, the latter would have been out. And if the match had ended in a draw, Germany would not have qualified.

Either result would have suited the luckless Algeria, who would not have been at the mercy of these two European teams if they had built on the 3-0 half-time lead over Chile, instead of conceding two goals in the second session.

The match reminded one of the 6-0 travesty that Peru played out with Argentina in Buenos Aires in 1978. In the present case, however, one can't blame the referee. The April, 1981 issue of *FIFA NEWS* had an item that

was almost prophetic. A question pertaining to measures to be taken if a referee felt a team was purposely losing a match brought out the following reply: "The referee does not have the right to interrupt the match in the above case."

Talking about referees, Northern Ireland's captain, Martin O'Neill may be in for some stick from FIFA for commenting on Hector Ortiz, the referee in his team's encounter with Spain. "I don't know where FIFA dig these guys up. We understand that that was his first international in two years and that he has never taken charge of a European side." And, meanwhile, the Soviet referee of the match between France and Kuwait has been suspended by the world body.

When England played Kuwait, the interest was not on what margin of victory England would achieve, but whether or not Paul Mariner would

equal a 94-year old British record. The unlikely-sounding Tinsley Lindley scored for England in nine consecutive games between 1886 and 1888. Mariner had scored in six, equally the feat of Tommy Lawton and Jimmy Windridge.

But Mariner could only watch as Trevor Francis did the honours in the Kuwait tie. Worse, he was booked in that match, making it a very tricky road to Madrid, where another yellow card could make him sit out a very important second phase tie.

Heads we win

SPONSORSHIP is not just an accepted fact, it is a dire necessity in today's soccer set-up. Even so, it was curious to see a headband in the limelight. It was worn by England's Steve Foster who made his World Cup debut against Kuwait in place of Butcher, who was rested so that he had no chance of being shown the yellow card a second time. Foster, who wears a headband even while playing as Brighton's centre-half, sported specially made headgear for the World Cup. And who took all the trouble to hide scar tissue on his forehead? Adidas, although it is a company called Admiral that provides all the gear for England. One wonders, however, what Adidas would have done if Foster were to sit the World Cup out on the bench.

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a long way. With increasing international contact and the influx of coaches from different parts of the world, the so-called weaker footballing nations made quick strides. And, despite what the cynics are saying even today, countries like Algeria, Cameroon, Kuwait and Honduras have proved that, by the time the next World Cup comes along, they will have to be treated as respected opposition by the very best.

Cameroon finished third in Group One, ahead of Peru and with the same points as Italy. The latter went through to the second round purely by scoring an extra goal. Algeria had the same points as both West Germany and Austria, but failed to qualify as Austria had a plus-two goal difference while they finished with none at all, having scored five and conceded the same number. Kuwait finished last in Group Four, but they had held Czechoslovakia to a 1-1 draw in a tale of missed chances and then lost their heads in an abominably chaotic match with France in which they went down 1-4. Honduras also finished at the bottom of Group Five, but this was only because the referee in their match against Yugoslavia was patently biased. They lost by a solitary goal and Yugoslavia ended with three points to their two.

One feels, however, that more tears were shed for Scotland than all the others named. They had qualified for the fifth time. In 1954 and '58, they finished at the bottom of



Belgium's Alex Czeremysinski in action against Hungary

the pool in the earliest round. But then, in West Germany in 1974 and then again in Argentina in 1978, they failed to make the second round only on goal difference. In 1974, it was a clash with Yugoslavia and Brazil. All three teams notched four points but Scotland were left behind because they had conceded one goal to Brazil's none. In Argentina, they scored five goals—the same as Holland—but let in six to Holland's three. Ultimately, Holland lost in the final.

This time, too, the draw went against the British Isles' most consistent side. They were placed in a group that included favourites Brazil and the Soviet Union, considered by many before the competition as the surprise package. Scotland drew with the USSR and beat New Zealand 5-2, but they had not reckoned with the fire-power of the Brazilians. And yet, they may have made it to the second round had they not scored first against Brazil. For it was this goal that brought the best out of a rather lackadaisical Brazil and they were trounced 1-4. Ultimately, the fact that the USSR had a 1-2 result against the group champions decided their fate.

But ultimately, it is goals that count and, on that score, 12 teams have made it to the second stage of the tournament. Here, in Group A, Poland will confront Belgium and the USSR, as the preliminary stage Group One winners were to face the Group Three leaders and the run-

Maxime Bossis (No. 4) scores the fourth goal for France against Kuwait



WORLD CUP



MATCH OF THE WEEK

DESPITE the sneers of the pundits, the stadium of Spain proved that Europe and South America could no longer consider themselves the supreme powers of world soccer. In fact, it was only inexperience and a liberal dose of scandalous refereeing that saw several newcomers to the top 24 eased out of the competition before it entered the second stage.

Apart from that, there was the spectacle of little European soccerroos taking on the giants and coming out unscathed. And the best example of this was provided by Northern Ireland, who managed to beard the Spanish lion in its own den.

The match of the week was obviously the one between the Irish no-hopers and the host nation. The contest started three days before the match, when the Spanish Press came out with stories of the Irish players' alleged penchant for booze, bistros and late-night bang-ups.

It was apparent that Paraguayan referee Ortiz was not equal to the tactics of defenders Camacho, Tendillo and Alesanco, though he did show the yellow card to midfielder-cum-striker Juanito when the latter, while falling back, pulled

McIlroy's hair even as the player was getting past him. While one couldn't blame the referee for not having eyes behind his back, he could certainly have sought the linesmen's aid before showing Northern Ireland's Hamilton the yellow card for what was purely retaliatory action against Juanito. In such an atmosphere, it was a minor miracle that a penalty was not awarded to Spain. It may be recalled that Spain drew with Honduras and won against Yugoslavia purely through the spot kick.

It was clear from the kick-off that the fancied Spaniards were still not in top gear. Their initial, tentative forays were all quite disorganised while the Irish were content to play defensively until they had taken stock of the situation.

When it became clear that Juanito, Satrustequi and Ufarte would not be able to score even if they were served up a chance on a platter, Armstrong and the youngest player in the competition and indeed in World Cup history, Norman Whiteside, tried to score what would have been Northern Ireland's sixth goal in nine international outings.

But there was to be no uninterrupted flow as body contact became the

main objective of the Spaniards.

Barely two minutes after the breather, Billy Hamilton raced towards the goalline and, eluding Tendillo, sent a low cross. Spanish goalkeeper Arconada, who had not recovered from a bad case of cold, made a fatal error in almost slapping the ball to the feet of unmarked Armstrong. By then, three defenders had raced towards the goalline, but Armstrong managed to slam the ball under the custodian and past the forest of legs to score the only goal of the match.

Spain naturally launched an all-out counter-offensive. But Saura and Ufarte could not get a clear look at goal and did not change tactics and try to score from outside the penalty area. To make matters infinitely easier for them, referee Ortiz sent Mal Donaghy, the deep defender, off for what was not a serious offence. Donaghy collided with Camacho and then, as the latter was about to take the throw, pushed him. It was the linesman who brought the matter to the referee's notice and Ortiz promptly brought out the red card.

A full 30 minutes remained and Northern

Ireland had to play with ten men. Understandably, they pushed all their men into defence, taking care not to indulge in any body play inside the penalty area. With twenty minutes to go, Whiteside was replaced by Enlson, who was obviously required to hold the defence.

Spain brought in Quaini in place of Satrustequi in the second session and then reinforced the attack further by replacing a clearly out of touch Ufarte with Galleaga barely thirteen minutes from time. And yet, veteran Pat Jennings under the bar had only one moment of uncertainty when he failed to pick up the ball in the last minutes—the result of a misunderstanding with the defenders. But he dived for it even as Saura came within a foot of equalising.

It was a dull struggle, against odds that one would have thought were insurmountable. But it was done and the 110-year history of Irish football was re-written, etching a chapter more glorious than the 1958 crusade, when they reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Sweden before losing 0-4 to France, who finished third in the competition.

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ners-up of Group Six. All matches are scheduled at the Noucamp Stadium in Barcelona. Group C matches will also be played in the same city, though at the RCD Espanol. But, of that, later.

The Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid will host the Group B ties, where West Germany are pitted against England and Spain—the Group Two and Group Four leaders joining the Group Five runners-up. The other Madrid matches will be held at the Vicente Calderon, where Austria, France and Northern Ireland clash. Here, Group Five winners, Northern Ireland have to meet the Group Two and Four runners-up.

The big disappointment came in the Group C line-up at Barcelona. It was expected at the start of the competition that Argentina could head Group Three and so move on to Group A. But they finished second behind Belgium and so found themselves clubbed with Brazil and Italy. As leaders of Group Six, Brazil came along with the Group One runners-up, Italy. So there are no prospects of a Brazil-Argentina clash in the later stages of the World Cup.

But the draw holds one psychological advantage for Brazil. Argentina have to play Italy first and if they win, they will have to wait for the Brazil-Italy tie before playing their principal rivals. The twelfth World Cup rules have scheduled that, even should there be a draw, Italy will have to play Brazil in the second group encounter.

Continued on page 21



Austria's Walter Schachner is horizontal in the air while Algerian Faouzi Mansouri heads the ball.

Platini of France (right) is killed by Janwion of Kuwait (No. 5).





PROFILES

"Of course you can stop him. You can stop any player. But his variations are so many, his skill so bewildering that many a time you don't know what he is going to do next. You only know when he has gone. That was how Rinus Israel, the one-time captain of Feyenoord and the Dutch national team, and undoubtedly one of the best central defenders on the continent described Johan Cruyff, the wonder boy of Dutch soccer.

He took his team Ajax to one glory after another during his chequered career as a footballer and became one of the most highly paid professionals of his time. In fact, this was a period of repudiation for the game in Holland which ultimately culminated in the re-emergence of the nation on the international scene. And the maestros who made it happen were Johan Neeskens, Wim Van Hanegem, Rud Krol and Johan Cruyff.

The morning he never showed the day the star of the morrow was born with a frail physique and a ven-

Unstoppable Cruyff

worse, a weak left foot. But the dreams were always there and the youngster spent hours watching the famed ballplayers of his time in practice.

This was a process of self-teaching and soon the boy found himself equipped with almost all the skills of a standard footballer. The disadvantage he had in his left foot Cruyff sought to compensate for by making the right a powerhouse of tremendous strength. And added to it was the training he got under youth trainer Jans van der Veer who made Cruyff sprint around the playground with weights attached to his left foot. That went a long way in eliminating his innate handicap.

Thus the boy was gradually preparing himself for the real challenges that he was to meet on the professional circuit. The two things that he had mastered by then were taking powerful shots and creating clever moves which were beyond the comprehension of his opponents.

But his forte was his unbelievable speed, coupled with flawless ball

control. It always gave him an added advantage to break through an opposing defence. And young Cruyff was coming to prominence by leaps and bounds.

At 15 he joined Ajax Club, the fences of which he used to hang around copying the techniques of its players. Now better training was available and also the incentive to make rapid progress. For a passionate football fan like him it was a god send—though every bit of it earned through hard toil—to reach the highest levels of international soccer.

Not only for Cruyff, for Ajax also it marked the beginning of a prosperous period in which the club rose to great heights and won many a coveted trophy of the continent. The leading spirit in most cases being this star in the making of Dutch soccer.

After making his debut for Ajax in the 1965-66 season, Cruyff soon became a marvel of a goal getter, seeming almost unstoppable when running with the ball towards a citadel, leaving defenders motionless or

flat on their faces on his way through. In fact, he went on a goal-scoring spree right from his first match for the club.

In 1966, he was capped for Holland. But there was trouble in store for him. During a match against Czechoslovakia, he lost his temper, provoked by an opposing defender and was sent off the field on charges of dangerous play. Later he was suspended for one year from international soccer, a punishment that was condemned from many quarters as unjustifiably severe for not so serious an offence.

In 1974, Holland staged a valiant comeback into the arena of top level world football—the World Cup at Munich. The Dutch simply stormed onto the scene and swept aside Uruguay, Bulgaria, Argentina, East Germany and even Brazil to reach the final. The ultimate success, however, never came their way and they had to return home empty handed. But a few men stood out in defeat and the world will ever remember the performance the great masters put up. And Cruyff was one of them.



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BRAZIL VS. USSR

Top: Junior (right) of the former about to dribble past a Soviet defender.
Bottom: Brazil's Eder takes a free-kick



RECORDS

Predicted right....

PREDICTIONS are always dangerous, but this was not the case with Cribari and keeper Carvalhal, who displayed his class, vibrant talents in 1958 and a score making that World Cup debut this year, following the withdrawal of Mevius and Carvalhal. And played brilliantly in a 2-3 draw against Romania which confounded many of the critics who had written off the debutant. However he was dropped for their play, for no apparent rhyme or reason. I suspect though he was he called for a conference and declared: "The hold no secret. We shall win. We will win. And that is how it will be."

....and wrong

If there is a prediction that has been wrong, it is Brazil's loss to Sweden in 1950. It was the year of the State of Rio. He had predicted victory for Brazil in the address of the triumphs at the Maracan Stadium before the final. You Brazilians whom I consider the

victors of the tournament. You players who in less than a few hours will be acclaimed champions by millions of your compatriots. You who have no equals in the terrestrial hemisphere. You who are superior to every other competitor. I salute you as conqueror. One wonders what he had to say after Brazil's defeat.

First league play-off

THE World Cup was decided on a league basis for the first time in 1950. Brazil's dreams were shattered when they lost to Uruguay and the best nation in the world as they defeated six spectators at the Maracana Stadium. Fanned from shock and news later filtered through that several other fans had died while listening to radio broadcasts.

The top-scorer

MOROCCO BORN Lefterime, a striker, included in the squad for the French team during the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, but even he could not have foreseen before the tournament, that he would emerge a hero by



the end of it all. Team to Rene Bliard hurt ankle during training and returned home, leaving the coach with no option but to include someone in his place. A young striker played that he was "the marksman" and ended the tournament with a tally of no less than 13 goals, which has not yet been surpassed.

Successive goals

ONLY one player has scored goals in successive World Cup finals. Edwaldo Dado Neto

(Nava) of Brazil, carved a niche for himself in the history books when he found the net against Sweden in 1958 and later, against Czechoslovakia in 1962. Pele also scored in two World Cup finals, but he performed his feats in 1958 and 1970.

The fastest goal

THE fastest goal in the history of World Cup before the 1982 Madrid tourney was scored in 1938, by Swede Olof Nierberg in his side's encounter against Hungary. He needed only 33 seconds to score the goal of eleven and it was not until four decades later that someone else dared to make this feat. The French player Bernard Lacombe took 31 seconds to score against Italy in 1978.



CHERRY BLOSSOM

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Argentina's Daniel Passarella scores against El Salvador by a penalty kick

One guesses this group because of the showings in the first phase of the competition. It is true that some Argentina or Brazil would reach the final because the winner of the group will face the winners of Group A, Poland, Belgium or the USSR. The other semi-final will involve the West Germany-Luxembourg group winner with that of the cluster which includes Austria, France and Northern Ireland.

While Brazil and Argentina have the capability of winning the World Cup, one cannot write off West Germany. The European Cup champions have not yet touched their peak form but it is evident that they are slowly getting into stride. If they get past England, they should certainly reach the last stage of the competition because they beat Austria 1-0 in a very controversial tie and look a much better side than either France or Northern Ireland.

One cannot however dismiss England. Gone are the days when they were literally saved by a late flash from Switzerland, who helped them qualify by beating other teams after England had lost to them as well as to Norway. England have won their last nine international matches and have been improving markedly match by match. Now, even without

Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooker, they have a combination that is working well. In fact, apart from the match with Kuwait, which they won by a solitary goal after a very scrappy 90 minutes, England have displayed the resolve and the ability to control the play in the game that are essential to win it.

The team does not lack a goal. Karl Heinz Pummingg and Eberhard Siebert, the fleet-footed winger who can shoot with either foot, but England do have a mid-fielder in that can handle most opposition as well as set up an attack.

But there will surely be other areas of interest. Group A, for example, could feature a bruising match the like of which was witnessed in a waterpolo encounter between the Soviet command and a Soviet team immediately after the Cuban Regime was overthrown by the USSR. The same country is involved in another case of repression, which has not ended. And so the match between the USSR and Poland could provide fireworks other than the kind one expects from football. And one will also have to see whether Austria deserved a place in the Second Round after what was alleged a 'fixed' match with West

Germany, which the latter won 1-0, just enough to place Austria second in the group ahead of Algeria. Luckily for them, France have still to produce the form they are supposed to be capable of and Ireland, despite their victory over Spain, are still considered the minnows of this prestigious field.

But even in a game of football, it is the momentary flashes that ultimately count if they are translated into goals or superb plays. More domination of the mid-field is one criterion as France discovered to their cost while losing to England. And it is here that some shocks may still be expected.

In the meantime, the little seeds displaying Mamelodi 82 scuffle in an Africa Cup of Nations. Over in Spain, Bilbao, Valladolid, Valencia, Zaragoza and Malaga have played down. There will be no more raincoats showing in the heat of games kept open time with vocal acrobatics. Only Seville, which will hold one semi-final at Albacete where the local team will meet with a pretentious hold on the public imagination. For the rest it will be Barcelona and of course Madrid, but the road to that last one or two at the Santiago Bernabeu will seem far off.





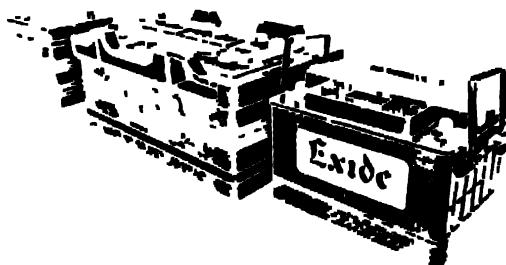
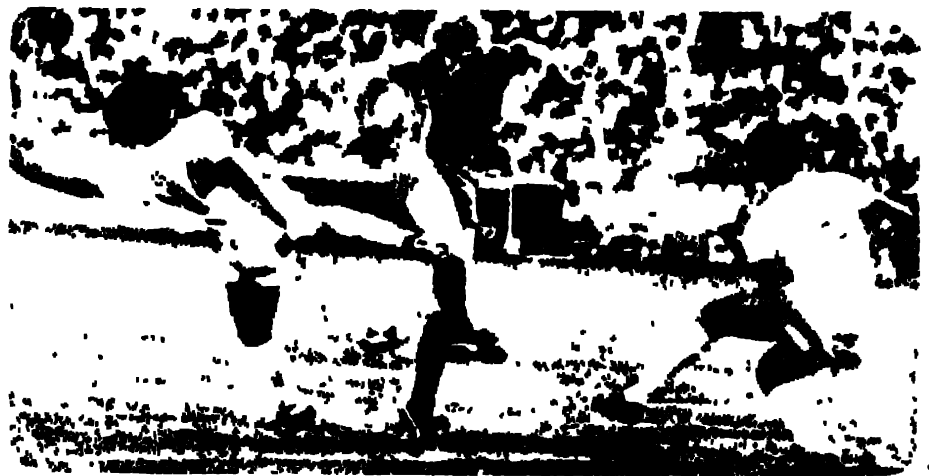
Sportsworld

**England's Wilkins had the better of
France's Hunt in control of the ball**

WORLD CUP *Action Photographs*



(Clockwise from top left)
Dierks scores the first
goal for Germany
Zinedine Zidane (right)
looks on as the Dutch
player makes a goal
for a defenseless
own team (not in pic)
formed by (left to right)
Zapata (El Salvador),
Coulibaly (Belgium) and
Koulibaly (Senegal)



Performance.
That's what makes
us No.

1

Exide
Still keeps going
when the rest have stopped

A
CHLORIDE
BATTERY

Man of the week

ITALY, the only Euro-
pean country to have
won the World Cup
twice, apart from this
year's continental
favourites, West Ger-
many do not have either
the skill or the verve that
got them the top prize
over 40 years ago. Nor
have they in Spain dis-
played the defence skills
that the world once
learnt from them. Italy
drew all their three
matches in Group One,
relying too heavily on
defence to make an
impact.

The only player who
fielded made any im-
pression was captain
Giancarlo Antognoni,
who set up both goals
that the team scored in
the preliminary round.

The son of a barman
from Perugia, Antognoni
was born on 1 April
1954, in his country's
home of artists. Flor-
ence. One does not know
the extent of the influ-
ence Florence has had on
this deep lying attacker,
but his football artistry
has dazzled his country
and Europe for over a
decade now.

Like most footballers
in Florence were him-
self. Forming one of the
new long clubs, picked
him up when he was just
17. But finding him a
little immature, they
loaned him to a Fourth
Division league side,
Astmacomba. It was

understood that the lat-
ter would keep him for
two years, but his form
gave the club other
ideas. They sold him for a
Fourth Division record
fee of about 800 000 dol-
lars to Fiorentina, a club
he has stayed with since.
Fiorentino tried to win to
get him back, but then
understanding with
Astmacomba was only
verbal and there was no
hope they could do about
it.

In any country, it
needs a minor miracle to
leap from Fourth to First
division but the ease
with which Antognoni
made the transition
marked him out as a
great exception. Leading
a popular nation to the
Italy Cup in 1977 and a
successor to the wonder
boy of York, Gianni
Riviera. He started his
career there again at
Verona and has never
been dropped from the
club side since.

From club to country
was a small step, which
he took in 1977 when he
appeared for Italy's
second team. It was a
bitter disappointment
for the 20-year-old when
he was not picked for the
1978 World Cup squad,
but he did not suffer a
loss of reputation for
that, as Italy found them-
selves third in a pool
which included Poland
and Argentina, the only
one an ignominious exit

from the World Cup in
Germany.

A change of managers
brought a change in Ita-
ly's midfield, with Antog-
nori the kingpin there.
Julvio Bernardini, who
had been in charge of
Fiorentina in the 1970s
took him into the fold.
Since then, Antognoni
has made over 60 appear-
ances for his country.
One of the most memor-
able of these was the tie
against England in late
1976, which put Italy
through to the 1978
World Cup in Argentina.
A brilliant freekick by
him had the England
goalkeeper Ray Cle-
mence beaten from the
spot, and it was merely
incidental that Kevin
Keegan deflected the
ball even further from
the goalmouth.

Italy began well in the
competition, heading the
group in which Argenti-
na were second and then
beating Austria and hold-
ing West Germany to
earn a place in the match
for third place. It was
there that Brazil beat
them 2-1. But the tourna-
ment was entirely
smooth for the captain.

But injuries in several
months earlier in the
season and almost reg-
ularly in the World Cup
saw him in poor form
and towards the end,
he had to be replaced.
Back home, Fiorentina

was facing relegation and
Antognoni faced the
wrath of the club fans.
He was suspended for
two matches when he
argued with a referee.
Again, in November
1978, he was sent off the
field after a row during a
match with Czechoslova-
kia, which Italy lost 3-0.
Again, in a tournament
in Japan, he was sent off
in a match against Tot-
tenham Hotspurs, a lead-
ing England club side.
This was followed by
similar treatment in a
World Cup qualifying
match against Belgium.

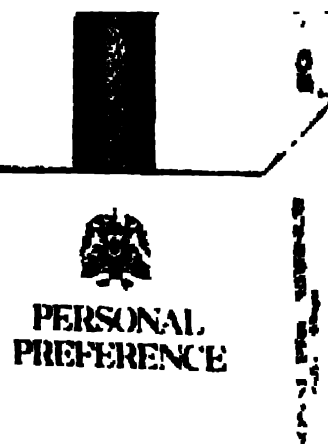
But his reputation did
not leave him. Even to-
day, soccer enthusiasts
know that he is easily
excitable and is prone to
taking the law into his
own hands. Whether it is
his own form that influ-
ences him - or that of his
team mates or the
opposition - Antognoni
is prone to fits of temper
and angry postulations,
provocation or not.

Already, a man who
Antognoni has earned a
yellow card in the Spain
World Cup.



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PREFERENCE**
Teller Kings



WATERLOO CIGARETTES

Man of the week

WORLD

PERSONAL
PREFERENCE

PAUL BREITNER
West Germany
AP





PERSONAL PREFERENCE

Mood of the Cup

Anger in the arena. President of the Kuwaiti Football Association, Fahd Al-Ahmed, clenches his fist, standing right on the pitch, to protest against refereeing during the Kuwait-France encounter



In an explosion of joy, Faisal Al-Dakhil of Kuwait is hugged by a team-mate after scoring against Czechoslovakia in their Group Four match.





The star among his fans. Brazilian soccer ace Zico surrounded by a cluster of pretty girls during a workout at the Mairina Facilities



A loud shout by England's Bryan Robson after his side's second goal against France at Bilbao's San Mames Stadium. England won 3-1





NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

looking well settled and comfortable against spin and seam, but Gavaskar playing with more hesitation and discomfort.

So it continued with a 20 minute break for bat light with all the Indian bowlers on line and length, restricting the scoring rate, but far too rarely giving hopes of a break through. The wicket at the Stratford end was totally grassless and yet Gavaskar had preferred the less experienced Ravi Shastri till the middle of the afternoon to Doshi to try and exploit what little it had to offer and eventually when Doshi did get to bowl from this end he turned the ball sufficiently to bowl Cook as he reached forward defensively.

A little later he had Gavaskar undriving early to hit the middle stump and dismissed Randall caught behind. In the meantime Madan Lal tempted Lamb into driving at a ball wide enough to be left alone so early in his innings and forced Gower to give a sharp chance to Shastri at backward short leg.

The Indians like many others must have noticed that Gower sounds too straight when he runs the ball to long leg and Shastri was placed there according to plan. Though Cook had batted with confidence to establish himself in the England team no other batsman had quite managed to overcome the difficulties of hitting on a wicket which was by no means out of even. From 106 for no wicket England had slipped to 161 for five, bringing back recent memories of the first innings at Lord's. Would England escape again, we wondered. In fact she did and this was entirely due to a fine piece of reconstruction by you know who.

Botham had already given his attention to it and had begun to turn on the full power of his broad shoulders. Indo once again resorted to her two main bowlers. He exasperated Doshi by a skilful use of the reverse sweep, but treated Kapil Dev with utmost respect. But even Kapil Dev cannot go on for ever and the new ball was due late in the evening and as soon as Nayak was introduced Botham was back in business saving his way to 50 with 10 fours. Miller out to prove that he is also a genuine all rounder, was content to strike only the poor delivery no matter how long it took to come. India bowled with enough resolution to contain the batsmen, though one wondered how a slow left arm spinner could bowl so many no balls and indeed with a deep defensive field why England refused the many obvious singles. Gavaskar asked for the new ball with three overs remaining but could not separate the two.

At 239 for five, the match was evenly poised. The ball was as good as new and if Botham could be dismissed early, it would very possibly ensure that England's total stayed within reasonable limits. Why



Gavaskar's innings at 86 comes to an end, bowled Doshi.

Nayak was asked to share the new ball with Kapil is a secret yet to be revealed and when Nayak hit Botham's toe with a straight full toss why nobody appealed will remain a deeper mystery.

Botham in pain requested a runner and then proceeded to pay back Nayak in full measure. Whenever Botham faces Kapil or it is the other way around there is a perceptible sense of anticipation amongst the spectators. The media has built up these two and Imran Khan as the most exciting all rounders in the world and in the game both parties gave ample reasons for this accolade. Initially Kapil has been playing and missing, but the shine wore off the ball and Botham adjusted to the pace and bounce of the wicket. It became apparent that the Indian bowlers were going to suffer. He despatched the scamer all around the ground and twice to his hundred with a flurry of hooks and drives.

Gavaskar introduced a double pin attack and in spite of a deep mid on and mid off Botham hoisted Doshi into the crowd. Doshi seemed dejected, but there is hope when Botham is in this mood. No matter how hard he hits the ball if he is prepared to lift over the fielders on the boundary, he is bound to fail sooner than later. And he did fail as he went for another big swing, but played the ball onto his stumps off the bottom of the bat.

In came Pringle, momentarily in the midst of controversy since this Test has clashed with the Varsity match and he, the captain of Cam-

bridge has preferred to represent his country. Where one's loyalties should lie is in this case an individual choice but one cannot help but feel that the Varsity team must have played it fair. Perhaps this is uncharitable and it happened on a weather effectively damped with a discussion. A six feet by nine inch and with a reputation almost as large. Pringle has yet to impress. Except for one authentic drive. Pringle relied on a very long ball to take him safely to lunch. Mr. Nayak at once having shown much patience and a penchant for the reverse defensive during the interval a big black cloud spilled its contents and the day's play was abandoned.

ONE is not sure of the progress of the monsoon in India but it is raining there at the moment. Last evening and during the night there will be some happy showers though in Manchester cricket bowlers were expected to go through another Test interrupted by rain.

Surprisingly the Saturday delivery by only one hour such to be drainage systems and the recuperative powers of this ground. Once again Doshi bowled economically and Kapil moved the ball sufficiently to beat the bat but no avail. England showed a reluctance to test the fielding with quick singles and the first hour saw the addition of a mere 53 runs to take the score to 373.

So far England had indicated no real urgency, though it was obvious to even non Lancastrians that the weather would curtail this game. At last, Pringle never at home lost



Sportsman
KAPIL DEV NIKHANI
RAHUL GUPTA



Sandeep Patil—Man of the Match

patience and was comfortably stumped off Doshi. At the other end, Miller, who has eyes firmly set on a first hundred, declined to take any risk. He was dropped in the slips off Madan Lal, but carefully worked his way to 98 before playing Doshi onto his toes to give Vengsarkar a sharp catch at slip point. Edmonds had already gone, giving Madan Lal more compensation for his untiring effort and at 115 for nine one expected a declaration. But the England captain encouraged no doubt by a performance at Lord's, felt capable of adding some quick runs. In this he did not succeed and England were all out for 129.

On a slow wicket inclined to help spin the Indian bowlers had performed creditably and without much luck. India went in to bat at a most unenviable time and in light just good enough for play. The prospect of facing the new ball from fresh bowlers who know that they need only bowl a few overs, is daunting and so it proved. Willis generated pace to dispose of Shastri and Gavaskar, both to deliveries that rose chest high. From the other end, Pringle replacing an injured Botham, bowled a wide, short ball to Vengsarkar, which the latter very indiscreetly edged into the slips. It was not a shot to be recommended with five minutes left for play. That left India at 35 for three and the memory of the last Test too clear for comfort.

NOBODY who watched this day, and there were only 4,000 at the ground, is likely to forget the Indian performance. Three hundred and forty runs in one day is rare enough, but to score them faced with the ignominy of a follow-on was a unique feat.

Willis and Botham, the latter still not completely fit but more than prepared to compete, were on target, but were kept at bay by Vishwanath and Kirmani, the night-watchman.

Sensibly, India refusing to be overawed kept the initiative and against an attacking field played shots at every opportunity.

For the first time in this series the English bowlers felt the true depth of the Indian batting, but as has happened so often, the effort may have come too late. Today, Vishwanath and Kirmani laid the foundation. Kapil Dev built handsomely on it and Patil provided the final finish with an incomparable innings of controlled aggression. The most immediate task was to deny a breakthrough to the quicker bowlers, which on a wicket now devoid of any pace required a little care for a few overs, while there was still gloss on the ball.

While Vishwanath lay back to square cut or push strongly off the legs, Kirmani refused to play a minor role and contributed almost as much driving through the many empty spaces. Willis, for the first time under pressure and with not a great deal of runs to play around with, found it difficult to arrive at the



Botham turns one to leg during his century

right balance between attack and defence.

He could have shown more imagination with his bowling changes. He bowled Miller from only one end and far too long. And till very late in the day he seemed to have forgotten the existence of Pringle.

Edmonds, given exclusive use of the Warwick Road End, from which Doshi had done so much damage, bowled flat and did not manage the

same response. Miller, the off spinner, so used to one-day cricket, can not be successful in a five-day match unless he changes his attitude and decides that wicket-taking is often more important than saving runs.

Gradually the bowling was worn down as Vishwanath square cut his way to another fifty. He was not quite so successful against Botham, nor was the square cut that got him out just before lunch that necessary. It gave Taylor a simple catch and Sharma a torrid over from Botham. Sharma soon fell victim to the vagaries of the wicket, when Edmonds bowled him with a 'grubber'. Patil, in a situation crucial to India as well as his own career, showed no signs of gravity and from the first ball which he drove confidently for three, played with increasing candour. Kirmani's dismissal by one of the few balls that turned prodigiously did nothing to deter his attitude but for the next hour or so he wisely took the back seat as Kapil Dev in the middle of a purple patch moved smoothly into top gear. Whatever Botham does, Kapil can do better. Only Patil can hit the ball as hard but Kapil does it with more ease, and if England had any belated hopes of enforcing the follow-on, these were soon dispelled.

Kapil Dev did as he pleased, he made the quicker bowlers appear a military medium, and the spinners less than mediocre. When he left after an exhilarating display of freely timed strokes, the stage was set for Patil to play one of the most momentous innings one has been privileged to witness.

Some say that his 174 at Adelaide was better. This, I cannot agree with. At Adelaide he had played in plum perfect conditions and he had less to lose. Here, his career was at stake, he was by no means a unanimous choice of the tour selection committee and the wicket was liable to turn and keep low on occasions. What was even more reassuring was that he kept his cool and was mature enough not to compete with Kapil Dev when the latter was in full flow. It was a shame that it was cut short and in the end terminated by the weather for most of us saw no reason why England's total could not be overtaken. The moral victory would then have been complete.

It would take pages to attempt to describe this innings. It would suffice to say that Willis had to remove himself after he had been struck for six fours in an over. And after 31 runs had been scored off nine deliveries Patil till now had had a poor tour, but class cannot remain hidden for too long. And it showed in abundance and abandon, this afternoon.

For the next Test, one hopes that India will stick to the present combination of five bowlers and whether it is Navak or Yadav, let the coming week and the nature of the Oval wicket decide.

SECOND TEST ★ INDIA VS ENGLAND

ENGLAND (First innings)

G COOK bowled Doshi	66
C J TAVARE bowled Doshi	57
A J LAMB c Vishwanath b Madan Lal	9
D GOWER c Shastri b Madan Lal	9
I T BOTHAM bowled Shastri	128
D RANDALL c Kirmani b Doshi	0
G MILLER Venkatar b Doshi	98
D PRINGLE st Kirmani b Doshi	23
P EDMONDS c Kirmani b Madan Lal	12
R TAYLOR not out	1
R WILLIS c Gavaskar b Doshi	6
EXTRAS	16
TOTAL	425

Fall of wickets - 1 106 2 117 3 141 4 161 5 161 6 330 7 382 8 412 9 419

BOWLING

Kapil Dev	36	-5	109	0
Madan Lal	37	-9	104	-3
Nayak	12	-1	50	-0
Doshi	41	1-	102	6
Shastri	23	8	14	-1

INDIA (First innings)

S GAVASKAR c Tavaré b Willis	0
R SHASTRI c Cook b Willis	12
D VENKATARKAR c Randall b Pringle	54
G VISHWANATH c Taylor b Edmonds	58
S KIRMANI bowled Edmonds	10
VASHPAL SHARMA bowled Edmonds	129
S PATIL not out	65
KAPIL DEV c Taylor b Miller	26
MADAN LAL b Edmonds	
SURU NAYAK not out	
EXTRAS	
TOTAL (for eight wickets)	379

Fall of wickets - 1 5 2 8 3 25 4 112 5 136 6 173 7 269 8 366

BOWLING

Willis	17	2-	91	2
Pringle	16	-1	31	-1
Edmonds	37	12	91	-1
Botham	19	4	96	1
Miller	16	4	-1	

Match Drawn



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THE England cricketers marvel, and indeed seem baffled at times, at the Indians' extraordinary appetite for parties. While the Englishman prefers to watch the "telly" (in this case principally the World Cup or Wimbledon) or have a quiet drink at the hotel, their rivals are at cocktails or dinner do's almost every evening. "Amazing isn't it?" Peter Lush of the T C C B remarks, a bit confused, and he's seen it happen in India, as well.

The social engagements in Manchester began with a reception hosted by the Greater Manchester Council—apparently the first of its kind extended to a touring side—and also included a dinner thrown by Greaves Cotton, a company with wide interests in India.

But the party of parties came from the former Indian wicketkeeper, Farooq Engineer, settled now in Lancashire. It was a huge gathering in the engineer's sprawling house in the suburbs of Manchester, and from all indications the whole of this North of England city and his wife were there, not to mention media men and officials.

Cricketers accustomed to being constantly entertained, especially in their heyday, are not the most hospitable of people themselves, (exceptions not taken into account). So it all amounted to a wonderful gesture, on the part of 'Rooky' (Engineer's nickname). Neither the wine nor the pulao and tandoori ran short and that, despite at least two hundred and fifty guests turning up. And among familiar faces were Budhi Kunderan—he lives in Scotland—and Bishan Bedi (on his way back from America, where among his assignments was a speech delivered at the United Nations).

Of course, the evening ended in slight chaos with the planned garden party spoiled by torrential rain, which forced people to cram into the covered space, including the swimming pool area. But the generosity and good faith of the Engineers (including that of a charming wife and two lovely daughters)

Tour Diary

A party, a lecture and the century of the season

could hardly be suppressed or overlooked

IHAD to prove that Adelaide was no fluke," Sandeep Patil expressed at the end of the day when he compelled the cricketing fraternity in England to think of no thing else but his explosive innings of 129 not out.

The previous night, the Indian captain, Sunil Gavaskar, brooding over his team's reply of 35 for three, had remarked "I am very disappointed because this side has failed to realise their full potential," and the following morning in a long lecture to his boys, he is supposed to have said, "I see no reason why we shouldn't play out the day," and turning to Patil, he emphasised, "I want you to just stay there and forget about playing shots."

According to Patil, this is what he had intended to do till he was hit by that Botham bouncer on the helmet, which prompted him to open out a bit in order to regain his confidence. "I was just determined to get a few runs." He stated later on, "I had let my team down very badly on this tour, and I had to make amends."

What happened when Kapil came in? "Kaps said he wanted to play his normal game, so I decided to give him the bulk of the strike. Our immediate objective was to save the follow on, and I saw no point in hitting out at both ends," said Patil.

And how does he explain that murderous assault on Willis? "I had got the runs by this stage, we had saved the match and since I was by then sighting the ball quite well, I felt I could play my shots". The result six

fours in one over—a record in Test cricket—and only one of those deliveries could be described as loose. What this will do to Willis' confidence one will have to wait and see. What it did to Indian cricket was to smash the myth that their batsmen did not relish fast bowling.

It was an amazing innings, the likes of which are seen as rarely as a sunny day in Manchester. Perfect in defence and temperament and electrifying in its power and precision. And this from a man who claimed a top score of 34 and an average of 12.54 before this game! In fact, playing him in this Test was an absolute gamble on the part of the tour selectors.

Inevitably, the comparison will arise as to whether this or the 174 at Adelaide was the better knock. Patil goes for his Australian effort on the grounds that it was played after his head injury in Sydney. It was also against a better attack—Lillee, Pascoe and Hogg. But the discipline that he demonstrated, the complete flawless nature of the exhibition (he mistimed a few strokes at Adelaide) and taking into consideration the crisis he had walked into, my vote would go to this Old Trafford exercise.

Even after his success in Australia some of us had felt that Patil would have to adjust his technique to do well in England. He has finally done that—though it took him almost two months to accomplish it—and yes, he has proved that Adelaide was no fluke.

FIFTY years ago—this is being written on 28 June—marked the end of India's first Test match.

Unfortunately, the anniversary was not so memorable as the Manchester weather drove the last nail into the coffin of the second Test. And not even two innings could be completed in the fixture, leaving the series open, and India in quest of squaring matters at The Oval.

If the visitors had gone into this series with the object of holding out till they got a good chance of victory, they can forget about it now, as with just one more Test to come they have to go all out for a win.

The gamble with Sandeep Patil, who was named Man of the Match, has proved to be an unqualified success, but the experiment with Suru Navak was not all that rewarding. Indeed, it was felt in several quarters that India should opt for Shival Yadav in the hope that he would provide an extra dimension to the bowling. He cannot be much worse as a batsman than Nayak and is certainly an equally good fielder. If he bowls well, it could just about give India that match-winning potential.

Yadav, in fact, is slated to feature in the Essex game, which could be of vital importance to him as a few wickets in the tie could ensure his return to the Test eleven.

Ian Botham suggested to me today that India could take a gamble with Roy in the manner they had done with Patil. But such an exercise would deprive the tourists of an extra bowler, unless, of course, a man like Yashpal Sharma is dropped, which is unlikely.

So, on what should be a faster and bouncier wicket at The Oval India go out to restore parity to the series. Three years ago, Sunil Gavaskar almost brought off an incredible victory at the same venue. The Englishmen have not forgotten this and after India's magnificent fight-back in this match they will be all that more cautious to avoid defeat. In other words, India will have to surpass themselves not to lose the series.

ASHIS RAY

Of phone calls, promotion and cricket records

BOB WILLIS, England's new captain, explains how he took the news of his appointment

IN a month of fluctuating fortunes, I was cheered, of course, by Mr May's phone-call shortly after Warwickshire's defeat at the hands of Yorkshire. I was at home, feeling pretty low, and was completely taken by surprise by the selectors' decision. My first feeling was of elation, my second, a deep sadness for Keith Fletcher. I know the Gnome had been looking forward to renewing his challenge to Sunil Gavaskar on home soil after our frustrating winter.

A typical Good luck Goose and 'Don't worry about me I'll be all right' came down the phone line, from the heart of the Essex country side. I have spent many a relaxing weekend *chez* Fletcher, and I hope there'll be some more in the future. I only hope Keith's benefit makes up for that bitter disappointment.

I was looking forward to my first get together with the selectors and I must say I was impressed by the homework they had evidently been doing. Selecting is a pretty thankless task, but I have a lot of faith in this current band, Peter May, Alec Bedser, Norman Gifford, and Alan Smith. I know it is an easy thing to say before battle commences, but I shall be surprised if this forum collapses under the pressure to which it will inevitably be subjected.

It is a time of transition for us all. I will dearly miss the companionship and skill of Gooch and Emburey, and



Glenn Turner

the professionalism of Boycott, Underwood and Knott, but it will provide opportunity for a revival of some careers thought to be over, and the blossoming of some fresh names on the international scene. I for one do not consider the cupboard to be bare, and would only ask the media men to give the youngsters a chance to establish themselves in the County game before pushing their claims for heights beyond their present station. I'm all for encouraging the youth in the game, but not at the expense of losing rich talent by premature exposure.

Looking back over the month of May, apart from a couple of useful spells of new ball howling and more remarkably, two or three substantial contributions with the willow wand, my form has not been all I would have liked during such a formative period in the County programme. We have done our share of leather-chasing already and have been on the wrong end of two new batting records.

The Boycott-Stevenson last-wicket stand was particularly frustrating since we have not often had sides floundering at 91 for 7 in recent years at Warwickshire. The actual partnership was a strange mixture indeed. Geoffrey was content to occupy the crease and pick up his ones and twos while seemingly expending most of his energies in talking to 'Steve'. 'Get in line or I'll hit you with this bat' was heard more than once, and when I temp'd them with some less spin it was 'Just play straight, nice and straight'. Unfortunately for us, Graham listened to his long time mentor and made life highly embarrassing.

Glenn Turner's tremendous achievement during our Bank Holiday fixture at Worcester was almost predictable. He loves playing against Warwickshire. I was told he averaged 71 before his triple-century effort. Although Glenn complained of weariness at the end of the day over a celebratory glass of bubbly, he did not appear to us to break sweat. What an eye this man has.

It has been interesting, if painful for my analyses, to see his play develop over the years. I am convinced the one-day game and the use of the helmet have been major contributions to his success. His shot making, forced upon him in the confines of limited overs cricket, has been refined and adopted as part and parcel of the three-day technique. The rather bizarre waltzing around the crease against the West Indian quickies in 1980 is now less pronounced, but the will to beat the new ball still remains. The confidence given by the protective headgear releases all eye and brain power to the task of run scoring instead of self preservation.

Congratulations, Mr Turner. A remarkable accomplishment by an excellent professional. What a shame that the rift with New Zealand has yet to be healed. Turner's presence would surely make them a major force in world cricket.

So I bid farewell to a May of mixed moods and scant success, and prepare for June and the biggest challenge any cricketer can be given. I wonder how it will all work out? By the time you are reading this, players and Press will have passed their verdicts. I shall be interested to see what conclusions they reach.

The deposed Fletcher (left), and the king at present Willis, in Bombay



COURTESY WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY

The captaincy: when analysed and written down

JOHN ARLOTT

WHEN David Gower was made captain of the MCC team to play against the Indian touring team he disclaimed immediate aspirations to the England captaincy. Some observers were surprised or dismayed, some of the colonels were horrified. It is hardly likely that the selectors committed themselves to the extent of asking him if he wanted to captain England. That is not the type of hypothetical question selectors generally put to young men with next to no experience of captaincy.

It is quite unlikely that Gower is the first man to indicate that he did not want the appointment, in the past, however, these matters received no publicity. Indeed, they simply were not mentioned outside the polite conversation that contained the decision.

Certainly both W G Grace and C B Fry could have had it more often than they did if they had not declared themselves unavailable for particular tours, and a similar situation probably arose with Wiltfred Woolley in 1950-51. It is virtually certain from some hazy appointments that others turned down the opportunity, certainly I S Jackson and 'Tip' Foster at different times, intimated reluctance—or inability—to take office.

Nowadays it is a weightier matter than it was: playing stress is greater, public relations, Press conference, social demands increase it, and Test cricket continues all the year round. The pressure in Australia is not quite so great as in the seven day-a-week programme in England.

In Gower's case, too, he must have the example of Botham sharply in memory, and recognise that, coincidence—as he claims—or not, his loss and recovery of match-winning form coincided dramatically precisely with his posting and resignation as captain.

Derek Lodge in his recent and absorbing book, *Figures on the Green*, adduces statistics to show that the performances of a number of long serving captains actually improved after their appointment. That, of course, ignores the human factors which probably explain the figures, for, whatever may be said of batting, bowling or fielding, captaincy is essentially a human matter. In the first instance, it follows that the captain who loses form soon loses the post. Secondly, Test cricketers are usually mature, and have played

themselves at Test level, before they are appointed. Finally, which surely, is conclusive, they have been the kind of men who wanted the captaincy. Not every good cricketer cherishes that ambition, Jack Hobbs, for instance, protested when asked to take over the England side in 1926 after Arthur Carr was injured. He always disclaimed any wish to captain any team at all, and it would be hard to argue that he was not a talented player.

Greville Stevens and the Australian, Neil Harvey, had the experience and the cricket knowledge for the task but although each undertook it once in emergency, they had no wish to continue. There have, in fact, been a number of great Test players—such as Victor Trumper—who did not want it and, sadly, some, like Wally Hammond who never truly enjoyed it.

Those who positively wanted the job—and got it—are an oddly assorted bunch. It is difficult to find many similarities of character in the dashing and convivial Percy Chapman, the quietly introverted Len Hutton, and the courtiously articulate Mike Brearley, or, for that matter, to discover much in common between the autocratic Archie MacLaren (with only four wins but 11 defeats from 22 Tests) and the unobtrusive but tenacious Ray Illingworth who, in 31 Tests won 12 and lost only five. Personal playing success has not always been reflected in match results. Peter May for instance, the gentlemanly hard man, was a more successful batsman (an average of 55.00 against 35.54) as captain than as a team member, and, as Derek Lodge shows, scored 17.9 per cent of his team's runs. Yet, although he inherited an immensely strong team from Len Hutton, England won only three—and lost six—of 13 Tests against Australia during his reign. In extenuation though, it must be remembered that that included the series against the Australian 'chuckers'. In contrast, his contemporary, Colin Cowdrey, the gentlemanly non-hard man, averaged 38.10 as captain, by comparison with 46.16 as a team member, and won eight out of 27 Tests. Mike Brearley's average as an ordinary (and young) player was 24.29, as captain, 22.49. Yet his record in charge of the side for 31 matches shows 18 won (11 out of 18 against Australia) and only one series lost.

The Australians, indeed, have shown some striking advances in performance by captains, even Bradman's figures improved (104.57 against 96.47) and he won 15 and lost only three of 24 Tests. The formidable Warwick Armstrong showed an increase from 35.67 to 56.00 in batting and an improvement from 35.81 to 24.37 in bowling while he won eight out of 10 Tests. The figures increased from 33.73 to 54.04, 'Monty' Noble's batting went up from 25.12 to 38.15, Ian Chappell's 37.27 to 50.00. Greg Chappell's 49.74 to 60.04, Richie Benaud's bowling figures improved from 28.59 to 25.79. They, though, were fully mature when they came to the captaincy, and had a solid backing of experience.

What neither Mr Lodge's figures nor the Test results can measure is the quality of men as captains. They must ultimately be limited by the quality of the players under them. No one can guess how much better, or how much more efficiently, they perform when handled by a captain with the capacity to motivate them, or to direct them strategically. Any one who observed them, though, must feel that under Len Hutton, the English team developed considerably in effectiveness, and that Ray Illingworth quite strikingly made the best of his side so that it performed above the sum of its talents. Certainly too, Mike Brearley had a considerable capacity not merely for extracting effort from players but of using them more effectively than even they themselves sometimes realised.

The poor captain or—to be fair—the unsuccessful captain, is the one who cannot detach himself from his own efforts—which, heaven knows, are demanding enough at Test level to occupy any man's whole attention—in order to identify with any of ten other men on the field or in the dressing-room. That is not necessarily a flaw, one can either do it or not: the knack is not compellable.

In David Gower's case it would be odd indeed if he did not recall that quite recently he was being berated by critics for not concentrating sufficiently hard on his batting or on building large innings. The time to think of him—or for him to think of himself—as a captain will be after he feels he has solved his own problems thoroughly enough to concentrate on other people's.

COURTESY WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY

My boys did their best

P. K. BANERJEE reviews the performances of the Indian football team in the President's Cup tournament at Seoul

DUSK was descending on the city when our plane touched down at the Seoul airport. After disembarking, we went straight to the immigration department and there we met with the first difficulty on the tour. Some discrepancies were found in our papers and we had to wait for some time to get things sorted out by the officials concerned.

After temporary visas were granted to us, we were taken straight to a five star hotel right in the heart of the city of Seoul, the Garden Hotel. There I realised that the only foreign team that had reached before us were Eindhoven of Holland. They were a famous team with at least six former World Cuppers in their ranks. Of them, four have played in World Cup finals and one has the distinction of two World Cup final appearances. The latter was Kekov, an outstanding outside right.

Then we heard about the Operaio team of Brazil who were also to take part in the competition. Apart from them, the other powerful foreign teams to fight for the title were Livakoojen, a second division team, along with sides from Bahrain, Malaysia, Thailand and so on.

Of them, the most famous side was undoubtedly Eindhoven. In Europe they are regarded as a top-ranking team and indeed this year they were the favourites in the league championship. But for their defeat at the hands of Ajax Amsterdam, they could have finished first.

Anyway, I was a bit anxious to know about the practice facilities available and started gathering information on this score from officials present. At the same time I was a bit worried about the jet lag that my players were suffering from. So I ordered them to go to bed shortly after reaching the hotel.

Next morning we went for our first workout. The weather was pretty cold, very much like a wintry Indian day. At the practice ground we met the Dutch team, who were already working out. However, the condition of the ground was not up to standard. In fact, it was not suitable for practice at all, with the surface being extremely uneven. Running on it always posed the risk of injury. We discussed the problem with the Dutch team officials and sought their



Alak Mukherjee—best performance thus far

advice. They told us not to do any thing more than some warm up exercises and we followed suit.

But misfortune was in store for us. Bidesh sprained his ankle badly, causing much consternation among the entire team. He was an asset to the side, with his speed and tremendous dribbling capacity. Maybe he lacks in skill but he compensates for that with his unpredictable style of running, which gives my frontliners an added advantage in penetrating the opposing defence. The sole reason for his injury was the uneven surface of the practice pitch. Immediately, I informed the officials and requested them to give us suitable training facilities.

The following day we were taken to another ground, the Highway Development Corporation ground and there was no inconvenience regarding practice thereafter, though of course the condition of this ground was not very good either.

Then started the tournament. Before leaving India I had two very special aims in mind—to defeat Indonesia and Bahrain in the group matches and to avoid defeat at all costs against South Korea and the team from Holland. For the last ten months I had been coaching more or

less the same team and my assessment of my players was that they were capable of beating the second and third grade teams in Asia. During the Nehru Cup we had taken on superior teams from Asia, Europe and South America and our performances were quite competent. Yet, I had my doubts about whether the boys were really prepared well enough to beat the top-ranking sides of the Continent.

Anyway, of the ten sides taking part in the competition, five teams are likely to play in the forthcoming Asiad. Three of them were in the same group and the remaining two in the other two groups. We did not have to play against Malaysia and Thailand, but we saw them in action at the Seoul National Stadium where the next Asian Games will be staged in 1986.

In the first match I really felt sorry for the South Koreans. In spite of matching the powerful Eindhoven players in almost all departments of the game, they had to come out empty-handed. True, Eindhoven were superior to them, especially the way they scored the two goals against Korea from almost half-chances, showed their real capabilities. But the Koreans were unawed and put up a stiff fight. It was really brave of them.

The following day we lost to Indonesia. I have still not been able to figure out what really went wrong with us. India had never played such an aggressive game on foreign soil in many years. We kept our rivals under pressure throughout the match and yet we had to lose. The only reason perhaps was the fact that we could not utilise the six scoring opportunities that came our way during the match, whereas the Indonesians cashed in on a sudden misunderstanding between the custodian and the defenders to clinch the issue. We really felt the loss keenly.

In the second match we faced the same South Korean team that played in the Nehru Gold Cup. Naturally, we were more or less acquainted with their style of play, especially their strategy. Three players usually act as the pivot of their offence. We made it a point that they would be kept under strict vigil. Indeed, this helped us to prove equal to the Korean challenge.

In the 15th minute we first broke through the Korean defence to reach their goal area and the first shot towards the mark was taken in the 42nd minute. But unfortunately, the Koreans suddenly got a goal in the second half, off a free-kick movement.

You must be able to recall the way the Koreans scored a number of goals during the Nehru Gold Cup by hoodwinking defenders in freekick movements. This goal came about in almost the same fashion, when the Korean left midfielder stormed past

Compton and centred the ball, aiming at a six-foot frontliner. Afraid that he might head the ball home, Monoranjan made a diving header which was highly risky. Bhaskar also dived forward similarly, and the next moment I saw the ball enter the net off Monoranjan's head. In the previous match the Koreans had beaten Indonesia 4-0. Had they not won this match they would have found themselves in trouble.

However, I have noticed one very encouraging trend in my team of late. The greater the challenge, the stiffer the resistance they put up. But the problem is we are failing to maintain our stamina. Before our third match against the Dutch side their coach told Pfeifer jokingly, "Fight goals to Bahrain. How many would you like to swallow?" Pfeifer himself was very respectful toward his team.

But when the real challenge came, our boys shocked their 'superiors' by shooting into the lead in the 50th minute when C. B. Thapa scored brilliantly.

The setback stung the Indhoven side. They withdrew Gills, the forward of the national team, fielded a six-foot forward instead and changed their entire strategy. From then on, their policy became to lob the ball to this substitute so that he could beat us in the air. My boys also rose to the occasion, especially Sudip Bhaskar and Alok, the latter playing perhaps the best game of his career so far. Except on one occasion he never allowed Kerkov, the famous right winger of the Dutch team, to gain control of the ball.

But, there was misfortune in store for us. In the 70th minute Compton suffered an injury. While we were busy with him the referee ordered the resumption of play and the Dutch equalised unopposed.

The next morning, one local daily wrote, "This team will play for India in the Asian Games. The top-ranking teams of Asia should prepare themselves accordingly."

We lost the next match against Bahrain also but I don't know why the goal scored by Shabbir was disallowed.

My boys toiled hard. Perhaps never before has an Indian side worked so sincerely to win an international tournament. It was only in shooting that they went wrong. What they need now is the instinct to score—being in the right place at the right moment—now, that is something which cannot be taught to anybody. That is an innate capacity which players like Mewalal possessed in their heyday.

Before the Asiad, we are going to take part in only one international competition. And I must say that we have reached a certain standard in Asian football. Something really great will be achieved the day we will rise to even greater heights.

News: National

CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

East Bengal win first big battle

P.K. BANERJEE reviews the first crucial match

IN direct contrast to the kind of soccer I had witnessed at Seoul where teams from Holland, Brazil, South Korea and other countries displayed their skills during the President's Cup, the crucial Senior Division League match between reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting and East Bengal left one slightly aghast at the appalling standard of the game.

While I still try to recollect the Seoul matches and relish them, this match really dealt me a blow. What a

difference it made. Let me put it in black and white. When compared to Indian standards, the first session of this tie was abysmally low. Of course, there were certain reasons which cannot be overlooked: the weather for instance was the major culprit.

While the Calcuttans patiently await the monsoons—already belated—the scorching heat and humidity took its toll on players of both teams. Strangely enough, a few seasons ago, at the same time of the year, the Eden Gardens presented

Jamshid and Pulek Biswas in a tussle for the ball



O. P. Bhowmik



Arup Das header enters the net past an outstretched Pratap Ghosh

Mihir Bose was not in his element and skipper Amalraj had to work harder to compensate for this while Mohammedan S.C.'s young media Debasis Mishra rose nobly to the occasion and was able to wrest the ball twice from Mihir and create dangerous situations. Anyway it was Amalraj who was the best among the midfield players.

After the breather East Bengal wore an altogether different complexion. They became more aggressive but within six minutes sacrificed two chances. It was a pity to watch the Mohammedan S.C. defence cave in under the assault. For that period, when the opponents were everywhere I could only sympathise with Mordor Islam and Pem Dorji for the manner in which they struggled. During one such move East Bengal lost a scoring chance substitute Sujit Chakraborty sent a low centre to Subir Sarkar who from five yards gave Pratap Ghosh ample time to save the situation.

The day saw the goalkeepers from both sides come to their prowess under the bar but it was Pratap Ghosh who put in a greater effort than Tapash. Each of them however blundered once. Seeing Jamshid lob Tapash left his goal mouth and somersaulted to gather the ball but it left his grip with one Pulak Biswas at his side. A sudden dash on the right by Debasis Kaye meant that the latter had only to place the ball but he could not control his speed and fell over instead. Tapash has a good future ahead of him as I often advise him not to get swayed by supporters' praise. He must also remember that no world famous goalkeeper some resaults unless the situation demands it.

As for Pratap Ghosh his day's mistake resulted in a goal in the 24th minute. Tapash Das who replaced Subir Sarkar centred from the right and the ball swung in but Pratap was stationed too far to the left of the

post and that was his undoing as he was a little slow to take his stance to prevent Arup Das's header from entering the net. Arup was an Asiad camper once and one thing I must say about him is that he is cool and clear headed in this type of a situation. A similar goal was also scored by Habib against Mohun Bagan in the 1980 Federation Cup.

Both teams fielded junior players but the way they performed clearly indicated that they have not qualified as yet to substitute the senior players who are in the Asiad camp. The fact remains however that some of the juniors sparkle in patches. Shankar Adhikari has good foot work but he cannot keep up the tempo for more than 15 minutes while Pulak Biswas plays well as long as he can keep up.

East Bengal's first big win has put them in an advantageous position on the league table whereas Mohun Bagan will have to prevail over Mohammedan Sporting if they are to remain in the title contest. As for Mohammedan S.C. their chances of retaining the title are dimmer than ever after this contest. Heavy conditions because of the rains. But this was absent during this first vital encounter.

Despite the unfavourable playing conditions East Bengal made sporadic attacks, while Mohammedan S.C. tried to put up a combined team effort with some success. Had the reigning champions utilised a good opportunity through Shankar Adhikari, the story might have been altogether different. In the twelfth minute of the game, a Khabazi cross was headed by the unmarked Majid for Shankar to make use of. But he failed to utilise the gap created by Biswas Bose and Pulak Biswas. There was a collective groan from the fans when, at a range of ten yards he wasted the opportunity with custodian Tapash Chakraborty at his mercy.

East Bengal's counterattack revolved around Kartick Sett and Subir Sarkar both of whom have a similar style. They are fast but lack ball control. They could have been made to work effectively had there been a player who could create an opening for them. The only consolation for both in the first half was that they made two brilliant centres which were wasted by Akbar who is gradually becoming a spent force. Ten years ago Akbar would have capitalised on such centres but all he could do on this day was to feebly touch the ball with his head.

Most of the time the ball was in the midfield but the linkmen of both sides played shabbily with the result that the forwards had to exert themselves more than usual. Besides I did not see more than two occasions when the medios created a dangerous situation. As for Majid's performance it left me quite frustrated. Presently he is just a shadow of what he was a couple of years ago. It is sad indeed that he is now comparable to any ordinary Indian player. A great player like him has now lost both speed and skill. As for the other two Iranians Jamshid and Khabazi the less said the better.

Coming back to Majid he lost the best chance of the day which could have changed the tide of the entire game. A few minutes before half time Jamshid's spoon to Majid via Khabazi was powerfully volleyed straight into the goalkeeper. A couple of seasons ago, the same player would have converted it with ease. He fooled both Biswas Bose and Pulak Biswas and could also have dribbled past the last line to tap home the ball, but instead Majid sent a left foot volley for a confident Tapash Chakraborty to fist out. I must applaud Tapash for his brilliant piece of work. He was cool and confident in such a situation, the like of which would have tested many renowned custodians.

Mohun Bagan get the jitters

With Mohammedan S. C's engagement prior to their crucial tie against East Bengal being called off, the latter were given the shivers against lowly-placed Police A. C. **SARAJIT DEB** and **SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL** report on the matches

EAST BENGAL. With the big match against Mohammedan Sporting round the corner, the home team was expected to put up a morale-boosting display during their encounter against perhaps one of the weakest teams in the running for the league title, Police. But all expectations were belied as the red-and-yellow outfit scraped through by virtue of a solitary goal which came as late as the 10th minute of play.

Most of the time before that the East Bengal frontliners hovered around the Police half line making half-hearted attempts to score. But neither was there power nor coordination in their attacks despite the presence of such veterans as Mihir Bose and Mohammed Habib the master move schemers of the team. Both of them looked out of form and could give little trouble to the Police defenders. In fact the whole atmosphere was one of complacency with even such hard workers as Balai Mukherjee and Kartick Sett seeming to have no interest in the proceedings or for that matter the outcome of the match.

But the one man who was ever vigilant in his duty was Tapas Chakraborty the East Bengal custodian. As the Police forwards sought to go on the offensive taking full advantage

of the lethargic attitude of the East Bengal players, forwards and defenders alike, there took place a number of raids on the latter's citadel and some of them could well have spelled danger for the big club, had Tapas showed any sign of weakness or nervousness. At one stage Babla Samaddar came quite close to putting their superior rivals in trouble when he took a beautiful shot at the goal, which could have caused East Bengal a setback but for Tapas who fisted the ball over the bar equally brilliantly.

To sum up, there was hardly any thing to criticise in East Bengal's game, neither strategy nor any other tactical aspect, except their disinterested attitude. Never did they seem to take things seriously. Eventually they won, but it was a kind of victory that leaves little impression on the minds of even the staunchest supporters of the club.

MOHUN BAGAN. The home team were given the shock of their lives when the determined Calcutta Gymkhana defenders held the fort for 66 long minutes. It was only at this stage that the evergreen opportunists Shyam Thapa placed himself at the right position in front of the

Surajit Sen Gupta (without jersey) argues with one of the lineemen after their tie against Gymkhana



Police goalkeeper Sarikhal leaps to collect the ball before East Bengal's Kartick Sett gets to it

goalmouth and nodded in from a Surajit Sen Gupta centre. It brought a sigh of relief from the thousands who had come to watch the match.

It was not that Mohun Bagan played very badly, but they kept missing one chance after another from the very beginning. Amitava Mukherjee fumbled from close quarters on two occasions and these lapses were followed by a weak back volley by Shyam. The wingers Surajit and Denis Williamson also had their share of missed chances. And then,

The Ashok Group: Official Hoteliers and Caterers to the IX Asian Games Delhi 1982.

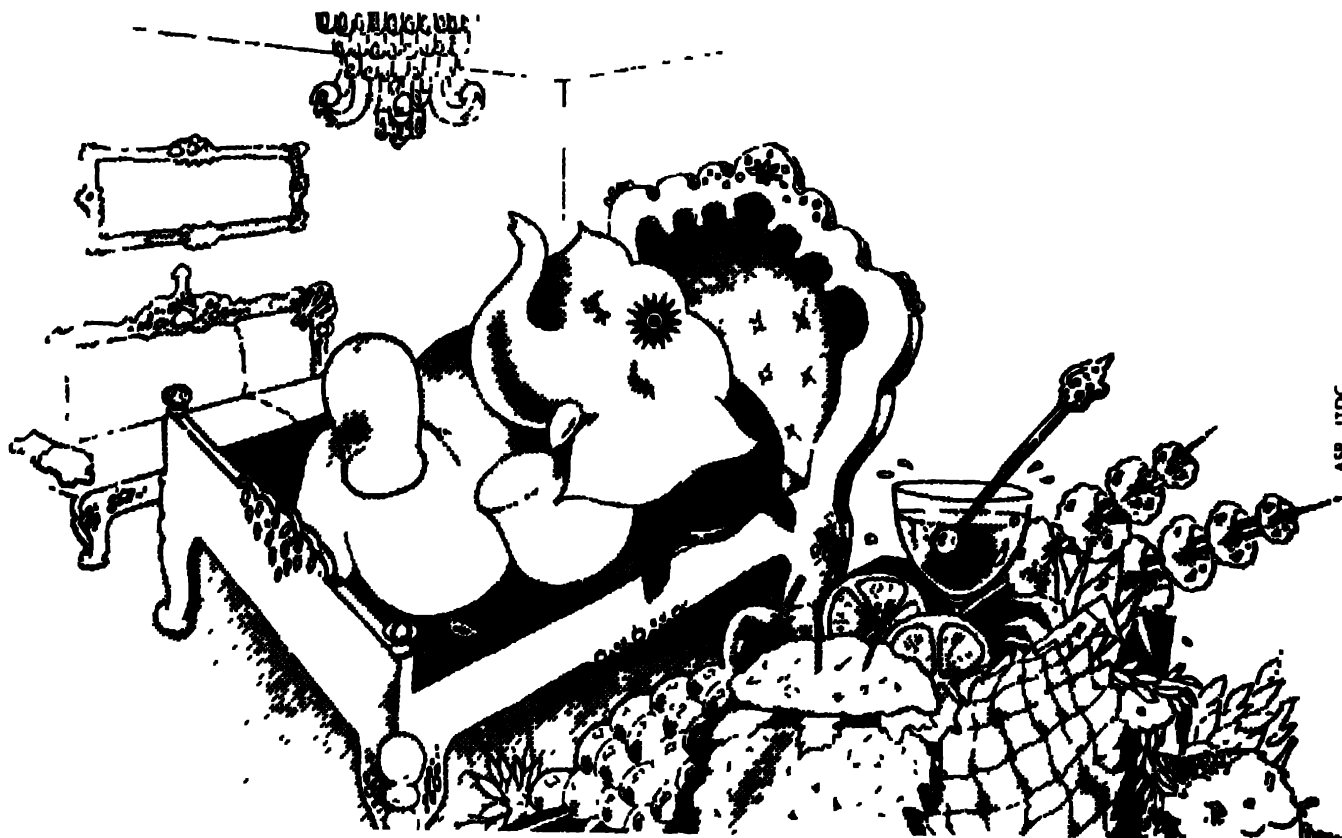
Come November and Delhi will welcome over 5,000 Asian participants. And the Ashok Group will be busier than ever before, upholding its reputation as a caring host.

The Ashok Group has been appointed the Official Hoteliers and Caterers to the IX Asian Games. The Group will be in charge of the entire catering services in the Asian Games Village Complex. Its kitchen and dining hall, which will be the biggest in India, have been designed to serve meals—to 5,000 people Every day for 15 days.

And in the tradition of the perfect host, the Ashok Group offers to all sports fans throughout the country, 9 hotels with a total of over 2500 rooms, in the heart of Delhi. Ashok, Akbar, Qutab, Janpath, Kanishka, Samrat, Lodhi, Ranjit and Ashok Yatri Niwas. The widest range of accommodation in the Capital to suit everyone's taste - and pocket!



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in the closing stages of the first half, they were unlucky when a shot by Bikash Panji hit the post.

The second half continued in the same fashion. They made a desperate change, moving Subrata Bhattacharya over as a striker. In fact, just when the supporters were losing all hope, Shyam did the trick. The manner in which the Mohun Bagan attacked can be gauged by the fact that they earned several flag kicks but to no gain.

The Gymkhana players, especially stopper Utpal Sur, fought well. Sometimes they adopted tough tactics,

especially with regard to Surajit, but referee Ajoy Lahiri tended to ignore things. On certain occasions he was unfair towards the Mohun Bagan players. Perhaps this was the reason why the otherwise quiet Surajit charged towards him with his jersey after the match. But before he could take any drastic steps, the club officials and some of the team's national players—who were watching the match from the sidelines stopped him. Whatever be the reason, an experienced player like Surajit should not have acted in that

IN the second match of the week, against Kalighat, linkman Gautam Sarkar and wing back Dilip Palit were fielded for the first time this season. Though Gautam, after recovering from an ankle injury, did not labour as we are used to see him, nevertheless his timely passes helped the team tremendously. He continuously fed the other linkman, Krishnendu Roy, who executed some fine centres and runs down the middle. And the 3-0 victory was not a true index of Mohun Bagan's superiority.

After missing a couple of openings, Mohun Bagan forged ahead through Amitava Mukherjee. He got the ball outside the box, dodged past two defenders, the first with an outside dodge and the next with an inside dodge and took a feeble left footed shot, but nevertheless a well placed one. The custodian, Bijon Chakravarty, was perhaps unsighted as the ball hit the side net.

They continued exerting pressure after the change of ends, and for most of the time the ball was confined to the Gymkhana half. True to the run of play, they scored two goals in the last five minutes. The first was a self goal, by Surajit Ghosh. Krishanu Dey ran down the right side and centred with Shyam following the ball, but it deflected off the defender's feet into the net. After a flag kick, the ball came to Gautam who sent a beautiful centre across the goalmouth for Krishanu to nod in the third goal.

The Kalighat players fought hard and never gave anything away. Their goalkeeper, Bijon Chakravarty played well, protected his citadel on a number of occasions, and saved a beautiful pile-driver by the overlapping wing back Dilip Palit. Stopper Surajit Ghosh played sensibly and nipped many a dangerous move in the bud. Then there were the twin strikers, Debasis Dhar and Krishnendu Sengupta, who posed a few problems to the Bagan defence.

From the home team, stopper Satyajit Ghosh played sound football, never giving the opponent forwards any leeway. With the introduction of Dilip Palit, the defence looked more compact and his timely overlapping helped to initiate many a move. Subrata sometimes moved up through the middle and whenever he did that, he looked dangerous. In the forward line, all tried but in the absence of Surajit was badly felt on the wet, slippery ground. Coach Sankar Banerjee said, "In the first match we kept missing sitsels and after a certain period the players were tense because they were not getting the goal. Against Kalighat I think we played well and there was more speed and thrust in the attack."

Advertising their own bias?

THE Asian Games Organising Committee has not followed the normal convention and procedures while awarding the advertising contract for the stadium to a Dubai-based company.

The MEETCO group of companies has been appointed the sole worldwide concessionaires for all in-stadia advertising at the ninth Asian Games in New Delhi from 19 November, 1982 to 4 December.

In a rather intriguing move, MEETCO submitted their sealed bid and secured the contract following negotiations across the table. Why the organising committee never invited open tenders will remain an eternal mystery. It would have been only fair and ethical if the committee had made it publicly known about the bids being submitted and further the individual value of such bids. The way events have transpired, one does not know whether MEETCO's bid was the highest or for that matter which was the next best bid.

The contract between the committee and MEETCO was signed in Dubai, in the first week of March. It would have been more in the fitness of things if the deal had been executed in Delhi.

Under the terms of the contract, MEETCO will pay a guarantee of six million dollars to the committee. A bank guarantee to this effect has been executed. In case the games are cancelled or postponed the committee will have to pay MEETCO six million dollars as damages.

The MEETCO group of companies, which has a turnover of 500 million dollars, deals in canned carbonated beverages, insurance, chemicals, electronic goods and foodstuffs. According to a spokesman of MEETCO, "There will be 1600 advertising sites at the 17 stadia for the Asian and will cost anything from 2,500 dollars to 25,000 dollars."

According to conservative esti-

mates if all sites are sold, MEETCO should make anything in the region of 12 million dollars, says Hussain Sajwani, partner and managing director of MEETCO. "Of this six million dollars will go to the Asian Games committee, a fifteen per cent commission towards advertising agencies, 15 million dollars approximately towards our costs. We look upon this exercise as commercial venture and naturally expect to make something out of it."

A total of 55 per cent of the available advertising space will be sold to international companies, 20 per cent to international cigarette manufacturers and 25 per cent to Indian companies. Sajwani informs, "This 25 per cent for Indian advertisers will generate three million dollars worth in rupees and the same will be paid to the committee. The other three million dollars due to the organisers will be paid in foreign currency." This means that the rest of the money will be made and kept abroad.

Generally, at similar international sporting events, advertising of cigarettes is taboo as it is considered to be in direct conflict with the health and spirit of sport. But for the ninth Asian Games the committee has decided that cigarette advertising will be accepted and that liquor advertising should be banned.

The recent India-Pakistan hockey matches in Dubai were sponsored by Dixi Cola, a soft drink manufactured by the MEETCO group. A K Advertising Private Limited, an Indian firm headed by film star Sanjay Khan, is representing MEETCO in this country.

Denying that political connections or behind-the-door manoeuvrings have enabled MEETCO to secure the contract, Sanjay Khan said "It was like any other business deal. We got it on merit."

HARESH MUNWANI

Premature somersaults

SOMERSAULTS—yes, two somersaults were performed—one in nervousness and one in joy, but both prematurely.

The scene of this drama was the first battle of giants of the current league that took place at the Eden Gardens between East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting. The man guarding the East Bengal citadel was Tapas Chakraborty, that tall, promising custodian of the club who has been keeping goal since the beginning of this year's league and quite competently, too.

Now, this was an acid test for Tapas and he was fully fit to meet the challenge. Wave after wave of powerful raids from the Mohammedan Sporting side kept the East Bengal defenders busy in the early part of the game. Tapas stood in to give a good account of himself, making a number of brilliant saves, the most spectacular one of which came towards the end of the first half. It was a Majid-Tapas confrontation. The former took a volley just in front of the East Bengal goal and all eyes instantly turned to the net in anticipation to see the ball entangled in it. But no, it was not a goal. Tapas saved it and a miracle was performed.

This was a feat of agility and extreme alertness. Now, here is a story of fumbling that gave thousands of East Bengal supporters a few heart stopping moments. The central character is once again Tapas Chakraborty and the reason an unnecessary somersault. In the 19th minute of the second half in an attempt to thwart a Jamshed move he took a somersault which was uncalled for on one hand and mistimed on

Maidan musings

the other. The inevitable result was that the ball slipped out of Tapas' hand and lay awaiting an onrushing Debashis Roy. But the latter failed to cash in on such a gem of an opportunity, and the crisis was over. Careful, Tapas. Those are not moments to play to the gallery. Practise them during matches against inferior rivals with your club officials around.

So much for the first somersault. What about the second? It came after the final whistle was blown when the major

portion of the stands burst into a deafening roar. The scene was much more dramatic and eye-catching this time, the protagonist being none other than the chief man behind the stage in East Bengal's victory—coach Amal Dutta. His joy knew no bounds and the result was a few somersaults right on the pitch—a sight worth watching and remembering.

But the question is were not these somersaults premature too? One enemy down, true,

but others are there preparing heart and soul before meeting their arch rivals once again and tables can be turned before long. Therefore, till then it's better to stand upright than upside down.

Soccer sweetmeat

THE man was carrying a packet with the label of a famous confectioner pasted on it. As he neared the entrance of the ground where one of the big clubs was to play a league match, the policemen on duty stopped him and enquired about the contents of the pasteboard box. Wearing an innocent and somewhat surprised look, the man, dressed in a kurta and pyjama, replied that he was carrying some sweets which he would distribute among the spectators in the event of his favourite team's victory. But the cops were not satisfied and seemed suspicious that the man must be carrying some missiles inside the packet.

They kept insisting that the box be opened and the contents shown to them. But the man was equally adamant that since it was food he would not show it to them on religious grounds. At last, after a prolonged argument the policemen relented and allowed him into the ground, disarmed mainly by the innocent looks of the man. But a surprise was in store for them. A few minutes later a piece of stone hit the iron gate beside which the policemen were standing on duty. Bewildered, they looked up at the stands to be greeted with a big grin—the same man was standing there with the packet of sweets in his hand. The next moment the box was overturned and what poured out was nothing else but a few pieces of stone.



Tapas' somersault

Oak the talented

THE Intab championships in New Delhi from June 21 to 24 heralded the arrival of anew youngster on the national table tennis scene Unseeded Neeraj Oak of Gujarat confidently brushed aside all opposition, which included the two top seeds Arunjoyoti Barua of Assam and Satbir Singh of Delhi, to take the boys' title

Watching Oak strike down his opponents, there was little doubt that among all the juniors on view he alone possessed a champion's all round game From top-spin to smash, from chops to counter, backhand or

straight games, over Arunjoyoti Barua Oak won 21-18, 21-19 to create a big surprise But, again, there was no denying that the Gujarat lad deserved it thoroughly Earlier, he had beaten Delhi's bespectacled R K Ramesh in three games Ramesh also had a win over Barua to his credit in their pool in the league stage for the last eight

Beating Ramesh, who plays with a bat covered with "dead" rubber and who has little use for strokes taught in the manuals of the game, is never an easy task as many an opponent has learnt to his cost Ramesh, unorthodox and a clever improviser, who won the national sub junior title in 1980 at Durgapur, took the number four position in the final standings

Bhardwaj was awarded the newly-instituted Parthiv Vyas Trophy for the best loser Bhardwaj had lost to Satbir Singh 14-21, 16-21 in their pool match in the last eight stage

more surprises

In a tournament where the general standard provided little to enthuse over, Ganesh Kundu of West Bengal was an exception Ganesh, who went on to win the sub-junior title to the great joy of at least one of his fans who rang up every night from Calcutta for the latest results of the boy's matches showed refreshing talent—the type of talent that can take him far in the game In a final of scintillating pace and aggression, Ganesh beat Assam's Indip Durwaha 18-21, 21-7, 21-18 in 28 minutes

The sub-junior girls' final, however, was a very tame affair in which Shilpa Takelkar of Maharashtra beat Jyoti Mehta of Madhya Pradesh 21-9, 21-10 in ten minutes Shilpa was third in the girls' event which was won by Karnataka's Vaishali Eshprabu, who beat Saloni Mahajan of Jammu and Kashmir in a disappointing final at 21-19, 21-13

After the 200-odd participants



Neeraj Oak of Gujarat (left) and Ganesh Kundu of Bengal receive the trophies from Anil Bajaj, Director of Education, Delhi Administration



forehand, Oak was all the time one up on his rivals Nothing delights the connoisseur to see a new challenge emerge and succeed at a national tournament

The way he handled the better known Satbir Singh in the final will not be easily forgotten by the latter who had the advantage of playing in his very own hall at the elitist Modern School It was all over in barely 13 minutes Oak winning in straight games at the expense of 14 and 13 points He rushed through the final like a person in a hurry to catch a train

If Satbir's flowing forehand earned him a number of points, Oak displayed a superior backhand flick which surprised the local boy repeatedly Oak was also the steadier of the two Both were eager to attack the return of service Oak was more effective here too

Before handing Satbir his worst defeat in a long time Oak had moved into the final with a victory, also in

The trophy is a gesture by the Delhi Table Tennis Association in memory of Parthiv Vyas who died in Bombay earlier this year Parthiv, 19, had spent his early years learning the game in the table tennis halls of Delhi, and before the family moved to Bombay in 1980 had with his elder brother, Nishith, served the State with distinction

A mention of Parthiv, who played in the 1980 Intab Championships at the same venue, tempts one to compare the standard of this year's tournament with the earlier one But one is disappointed to report that the youngsters seen this time were far below the standard of those seen here two years ago when Sujay Chopade and Parthiv Vyas dominated the scene Not even Niraj Oak measures up to their standard, though that does not mean that Oak has no future in the game Given reasonable talent, the future belongs to the player with the capacity to work hard Oak may go on to create many

from 18 States returned home, the organising committee, a one-man affair handled by Hukam Singh, manager of our team in the Asian championships at Jakarta, found it self in a soup Unlike in 1980, the Delhi administration this time refused to meet the major share of the bill Last time it had aided the organisers to the tune of Rs 21,000, but this time they were not willing to grant more than Rs 5,000 Mr Singh claims that it was on the assurance from the Education Directorate of the Delhi administration that he had bid for the tournament To meet the deficit of about Rs 15,000 the Delhi Table Tennis Association will now have to send the hat round, or perhaps it may print another souvenir to raise money However, the organisers are happy that all of them have gone home carrying happy memories of the hospitality at the Modern School hostel

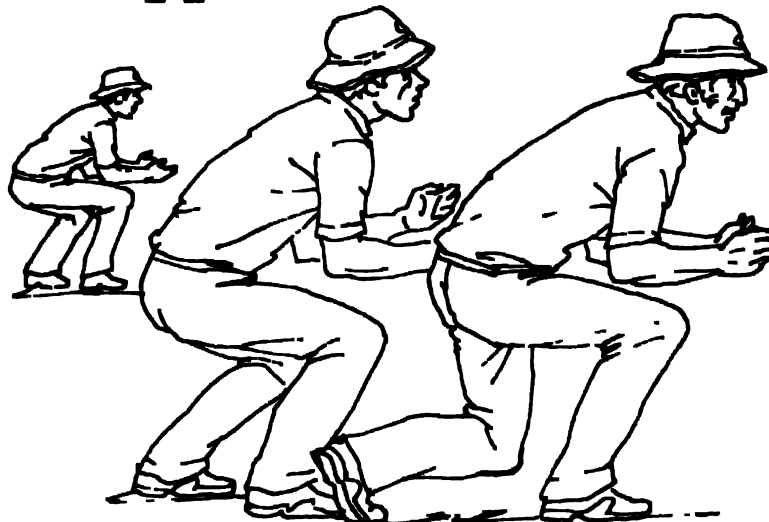
A CORRESPONDENT, Delhi

Of appeals and verdicts

The time is not far off when there will be brawls and free for alls in cricket matches as is the case with football. Cricketers, a pampered lot all over the world, particularly in India where they are virtually 'worshipped', indulge in all kinds of antics, fair and unfair, incite crowds and cause trouble. Everyone condemns such actions, but the evil grows unabated.

It is not very rarely that fielding sides make mass appeals to gain favourable decisions. While, sometimes such an uproar accompanying an appeal may be caused by strained nerves or over-excitement, it is generally done deliberately to mislead the umpire and thus get an advantageous verdict. It is for this reason that instructions to umpires say "Don't be influenced by the volume and confidence of an appeal, but do not disregard a half-hearted appeal".

While there are many instances in first-class cricket when umpires have reversed their decisions, there are very few instances when decisions have been



given without any appeal.

An amazing incident occurred in the MCC-Argentina match in 1926-27 when W H Marshall fell on his wicket when playing a ball from White. He thought he was out 'hit wicket'. He started walking back to the pavilion when suddenly he returned. He appealed to the main umpire who referred to the square-leg umpire. The square-leg umpire gave the verdict that Marshall was not out as he had trodded on his wicket after he had completed his stroke.

There are instances when an umpire's decision has been ignored. Such an irregularity has taken place even in a Test match. In the New Zealand-England first Test in 1950-51, Washbrook was given out LBW. But the New Zealand skipper, W A Hedlee, thought otherwise. He was sure that Washbrook had played the ball and hence could not be out LBW. He did not care for the umpire's verdict and

asked Washbrook to continue his innings.

Until 1935, an appeal was sustained if it was made 'at' and not 'after' the cessation of play. In 1935 in the Essex-Surrey tie at The Oval, Peter Smith (Essex) made a stroke off the last delivery of the first day's play to a point where Gample scooped the ball up. Stumps were up rooted, but as the players were returning to the pavilion, the Surrey skipper made an appeal against Smith for a catch. Smith was declared out by the umpire, and the MCC upheld his decision.

But soon afterwards the MCC added a note to the law stating that in future no appeal could be made after the umpires had called time and removed the balls at any cessation of play including intervals.

Except when the decision is 'out' an appeal does not render the ball dead as is presumed by many players and officials. Many batsmen have paid the

penalty of being declared stumped or run out for loitering about outside the crease after an appeal is made. In the 1936 County Championship, Paynter survived an appeal for caught behind. He was, however, standing outside the crease and the wicketkeeper removed the balls. Paynter was declared stumped.

It was the realisation of the plight of the umpires that compelled Neville Cardus to write "The amount of concentration he is expected to perform every day is almost an abuse of human endurance. What a great country this (England) would be if every man, whatever his station, concentrated half as much on the smallest detail of his work as an umpire is compelled to do, from high noon to dewy evenings of a cricket match".

Here are some problems.

Q: Is it beneficial for an umpire to bend down?

A: Yes, it helps him watch the trajectory of the ball before

and after pitching. Quite a number of umpires are in the habit of standing sideways when the bowler runs up to deliver the ball and then quickly changing their positions after the ball has been bowled. This is a bad habit and leads to many doubtful decisions.

Q: Can an umpire at the square-leg change his position?

A: Yes, he may, provided he informs the batsmen. The need for this arises when a batsman has a runner and the view of the umpire is obstructed by a close-in fielder.

Q: A runner, substituting for an injured batsman, was standing outside the popping crease. The wicketkeeper put the wicket down. Can the striker be 'run out'?

A: Yes, the striker will be declared "run out". It is obligatory for the runner to stay within his 'home'.

Q: Can a bowler or a batsman ask the umpire to change his position?

A: Players are the main actors and such requests should always be viewed sympathetically.



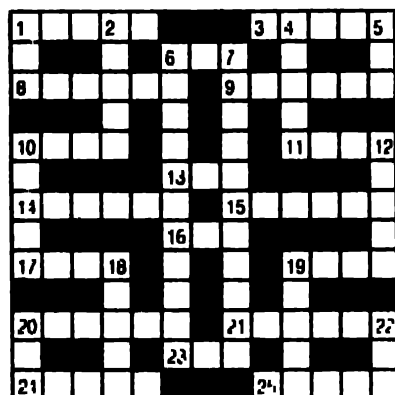
by



Crossword

MUDAR

154



ACROSS

- 1 Venue of the 1964 Olympic Games (5)
- 3 Omar of South Africa's cricket team has an unexpected surname (5)
- 6 This Barnes often squabbled with the Australian Board (3)
- 8 A mountaineer's European dream (1 5)
- 9 He is responsible in giving his side a good start in cricket (6)
- 10 Superlative for an English footballer (4)
- 11 Gavaskar has thrice scored 1000 runs in a calendar - (4)
- 13 Harold Harwood is shortened to this (3)
- 14 India's soccer king (6)
- 15 WCT's grand finals are held here (6)
- 16 Australian Cricket Board (1 1 1)
- 17 This state does not recruit players from outside the County (4)
- 19 Pakistani wicket-keeper begins with a drinking place (4)
- 20 One of cricket's best present after-dinner speakers (6)
- 21 'Big Bird' of West Indian cricket (6)
- 23 This West Indian batsman of yore returns with a hearing organ (3)
- 24 The 'Typhoon' returns (5)
- 25 A Richards, but not Vivian (5)

DOWN

- 1 One of the Guliksons with a circle in the middle (3)
- 2 An Austin, which is not a car, returns (5)
- 4 David of British athletics begins with a direction (5)
- 5 The Rovers' hero returns (3)
- 6 First American to win four golds in one Olympic Games has a nation in between (11)
- 7 First tennis player to do the Grand Slam (6, 5)
- 10 Charlton of the soccer world as he was affectionately known (5)
- 12 Italy's leading football player (5)

- 18 This Godfree of tennis fame begins with an equipment (5)
- 19 Table tennis 'great' (5)
- 20 Brearley feared that if something was not done one of his players would be hit by this in Australia (3)
- 22 What sets apart Sugar Leonard of boxing renown (3)

Excellent 30-27; Good 26-24; Fair 23-20

Question box

Virendra Pratap Singh, Calcutta

Q Was Sunil Gavaskar out when he made 220 against West Indies in 1970-71?

A Yes

Vijayanand Chitrakar, Jaipur

Q In which Test did Vinoo Mankad get his 100th wicket and in which Test did he complete his 1000th run?

A Mankad completed 1000 runs in Tests in the second Test against England at Lord's in 1952 and 100 wickets in the third Test against Pakistan at Bombay in 1952-53

Sharmila Guha, Chabua

Q What is the maximum number of runs one can get out of a single delivery in cricket?

A The batsmen can go on running till the ball is finally returned back to the wicketkeeper or goes out of the boundary after overthrows

S B Satyanarayan, Hyderabad

Q Was there any player by the name of Kasturirangan who played in Indian cricket? Did he play at Hyderabad?

A Yes he represented Karnataka (erstwhile Mysore) in the Ranji Trophy and he did play in Hyderabad

E S H Bulu, Jamshedpur

Q Who was the first batsman of India to score a double century in Tests?

A Polly Umrigar who made 223 against New Zealand in the first Test at Hyderabad in 1955-56

P Ramanujulu, Kotturu

Q When did Gavaskar score his first Test century?

A At Georgetown in the third Test against the West Indies in 1970-71

SOLUTION 153



Aniruddha P Rawal, Ahmedabad

Q During the 1979 tour to England, India has scored 96 runs in the first innings of the second Test at Lord's all these runs were scored off the bat and no extra was included in the total. Are there such instances when there were no extras in any total in a Test?

A Yes India holds the world record of not conceding any extra in the highest total of 328 by Pakistan in the third Test at Lahore in 1954-55 when Narendra Tamhane was keeping wickets for India. This is the world record total in which no extra was included.

Quiz

QUESTIONS

(All questions are on World Cup soccer)

- 1 Who was the goalie whom Pele almost beat with a lob from the half-way line?
- 2 Which former star has the real name of Manoel Francisco dos Santos?
- 3 The career of this World Cup star was threatened when a bone graft on his right foot did not take first time but he came back wearing boots with an extra stud and was his old self soon. Guess who?
- 4 Which World Cup star of Brazil was referred to in his country as a "tank" for his forceful bursts at the opposing goal?
- 5 What is the real name of Tostao?
- 6 Which star of Brazil's 1982 World Cup squad improved his frail health by a course of weightlifting and steroids?
- 7 Which great star of Brazil came to be known as the Black Diamond after his superb performance in a World Cup tournament?
- 8 The abscess on his right knee turned so bad that doctors almost decided on an amputation but this was avoided by skilful nursing. Otherwise this star would never have emerged on the World Cup horizon. Guess who?
- 9 Of the two Santos of Brazil's 1958 squad one was a black while the other was a white. Say who was which?
- 10 What does the CBD in Brazil's uniform emblem stand for?

ANSWERS

- 1 Victor (Czechoslovakia)
- 2 Garrincha
- 3 Jairzinho
- 4 Vava
- 5 Eduardo Gonçalves de Andrade
- 6 Zico
- 7 Leondas da Silva
- 8 Didí
- 9 Djalma was a black and Nilton was a white
- 10 Confederação Brasileira de Desportos

Bijayakumar Pradhan, Hatamuniguda

Q The first Test played between Australia and the West India at Brisbane in 1960-61 ended in a tie. What were the scores by both the sides in the said match? Has there been any other Test which ended in a tie?

A West Indies scored 453 and 284 to which Australia replied with 505 and 232 in the only tied Test in the cricket history

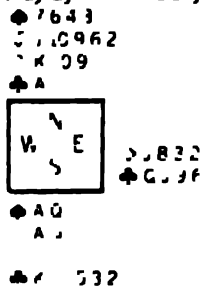
Surendra Tatkar, Bombay

Q What is Eknath Solkar's Test record?

A 77 Tests 48 innings six times not out 1068 runs 102 as his highest score 25 42 average, one century six fifties, one duck 53 catches 2265 balls bowled 82 maidens 1070 runs conceded 18 wickets captured average 59 44

Bridge

I was approached the other day with a request for the 'best' way to play a suit of A Q x x facing K 10 9. I refused to answer until I discovered what was meant by best - it could have had a variety of meanings in the context of different hands. For example even with sufficient outside entries, the best chance of four tricks seems to be playing off the top honours rather than trying a finesse of the ace. The best way of tackling the matter if one of the opponents had bid the suit would be quite different and so on. Oddly enough soon after considering this problem I chanced across this deal from *Logical Bridge Play* by H W Kelsey



out deal at game all and the bidding went

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

Whether over 2NT you play Stayman
 bar 5-6, 7-8 and you transfers all
 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-590, 591-592, 593-594, 595-596, 597-598, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-670, 671-672, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-680, 681-682, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-690, 691-692, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-700, 701-702, 703-704, 705-706, 707-708, 709-710, 711-712, 713-714, 715-716, 717-718, 719-720, 721-722, 723-724, 725-726, 727-728, 729-730, 731-732, 733-734, 735-736, 737-738, 739-740, 741-742, 743-744, 745-746, 747-748, 749-750, 751-752, 753-754, 755-756, 757-758, 759-760, 761-762, 763-764, 765-766, 767-768, 769-770, 771-772, 773-774, 775-776, 777-778, 779-780, 781-782, 783-784, 785-786, 787-788, 789-790, 791-792, 793-794, 795-796, 797-798, 799-800, 801-802, 803-804, 805-806, 807-808, 809-810, 811-812, 813-814, 815-816, 817-818, 819-820, 821-822, 823-824, 825-826, 827-828, 829-830, 831-832, 833-834, 835-836, 837-838, 839-840, 841-842, 843-844, 845-846, 847-848, 849-850, 851-852, 853-854, 855-856, 857-858, 859-860, 861-862, 863-864, 865-866, 867-868, 869-870, 871-872, 873-874, 875-876, 877-878, 879-880, 881-882, 883-884, 885-886, 887-888, 889-890, 891-892, 893-894, 895-896, 897-898, 899-900, 901-902, 903-904, 905-906, 907-908, 909-910, 911-912, 913-914, 915-916, 917-918, 919-920, 921-922, 923-924, 925-926, 927

♠ North you play in 3 NT and West un-
 expectedly leads ♠ 8. Remember North
 has suggested length in hearts and that
 is why West didn't choose to lead the suit.
 The lead takes away the club entry and
 makes it difficult to establish the heart.
 However declarer follows by finessing
 ♣ Q which is allowed to win. West can
 see the position in the suit and knows that
 it would be fatal for him to take his King
 while dummy still has a certain entry. Next
 comes ♣ A and the bad news

Now how should South tackle the diamonds? Four tricks in the suit will land the contract but suddenly a new dimension has been added to the problem: A diamond in the ten will guarantee two entries to dummy and enable the heart

Amitava Deb and Shoma Sen, Shillong.

Q Give the bowling figures of M A Holding of West Indies when he made his Test debut?

A M A Holding's bowling figures on his Test debut in the first Test against Australia at Brisbane in 1975-76 were 20-4-81-0 and 10-0-46-0

Q What is the highest score by Kapil Dev in first class cricket?

A 193 for Haryana versus Punjab at Chandigarh in 1979-80 in the Ranji Trophy

Srinekand, Alipur

Q How many catches and stumpings has Alan Knott of England made in his Test career til now?

A 250 catches and 19 stumpings in 95 Tests

suit to be brought in even if \diamond 10 loses to the Jack. Alas, there is a snag. If East gets in with \diamond J, he may return a spade and build up enough tricks for the defence. I hope that you have spotted the rather neat solution. Declarer must lead \diamond Q and overtake with the King! Now he clears the hearts (throwing a club from hand) and, as West cannot attack spades, has now got time to lead a low diamond to the ten and so establish the second entry to dummy.

Last week's quiz. The quotation for which I groped, obviously appropriate for teams play was, "I don't know what effect these men will have on the enemy but by God they terrify me!" More practically, if I held ♠K♥KQ9♦AK7642♣Q63 and having opened 1♦ and heard one spade followed by two passes I would re-open with a double—just!

This week's quiz You have arranged to play transfer overcalls over 1 NT (2 ♣ shows hearts, 2 ♥ shows spades) but to your surprise your partner overcalls 1 NT with one heart. The opponents point out the insufficient bid and partner corrects to two hearts. He is all right - he has made his bid sufficient - but are you ethically bound to treat his bid as showing spades (as it should)?

Chess

After their record run of 11 victories in the daily match Cambridge went down to a probably expected defeat this year when Oxford won 5-3 at the Royal Automobile Club, London, on March 13. It was the hundredth match of the series, now sponsored by Lloyds Bank, and it left the light blues still well ahead at 45-38 with 17 matches drawn. The Lloyds Bank trophies for the best games from each team went to Penelope Corbin (Board 8 for Cam) and John Cox for the following Oxford win at Board 5. The game may have a good model example of the dangers that Black can encounter if he tries to attack on the B side without properly completing his development and taking measures against White's plans on the other wing.

1 P 884 P-1084. 2 P 1083 P-1083

Sharmila Guha, Balijan North

Q Is there any player who has scored over 1000 runs in a season of Ranji Trophy? If so, please name him

A Yes Ravi Modi of Bombay has piled up 1008 runs from seven innings of five Ranji fixtures (twice not out) at an average of 201.60 runs, and with five centuries and one half century, 245 against Baroda being his highest score in the season of 1944-45.

Q Who was Bombay's captain when she won the Ranji title for the first time?

A L P Jain in 1934-35, i.e. the very first year of the tournament

Maqbol Alam, Calcutta

Q On which day was Sandeep Patil born?

A 18 August 1956

3 B - M2, B - M2, 4 M1 - M23, P - Q3
5 M3 - M3, M2 - M23, 6 R - Q21, P - M4
7 P - Q3, O - O, 8 P - Q24, M2 - M4

Now it could be argued that White advance on the
J side is rather early but the way for Black to
attempt to prove that was primarily by a central
attack. P 13 followed by J K2 and
B K3 followed by B

9 Q-123, K-R1 10 0-0 P-B5
This is the probable, or minimally weakening his
prospects of obtaining White pressure in the

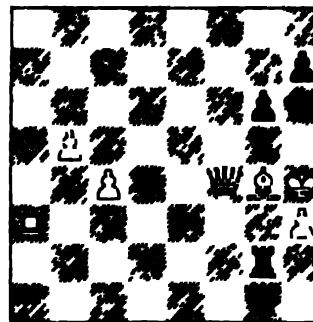
11 P - R5, R2 - Q2,
12 B - QK3, QK2 - R3,
13 Q - R4 R2 K1,
14 R2 - Q4, B - B1,
15 Q x Q, R x Q,
16 P - R5, P - R4
17 B - B1, B - B2,
18 Q - R5, R - K3,
19 R2 - Q4, R - Q2,
20 B - Q6
21 P - R5, P - R4
22 B - B6

```

22 0A - K2      23 R x P, R x R
24 0 x R R - R2. 27 K R 01, R - 03
28 0 - 08, R 0A1, 27 P x P, P x P
29 K2 - K4, R x R. 29 0 x R, P - 04
30 0 x R, R x B 31 B - 03, R 0A1
32 R - 08, 0 - K1. 33 P - 0A4, P - 0A4
34 R - 08, K - K2. 35 0 x P, P x B
36 R x B, R - K2. 37 K - 01, R(K1) - R2
38 R x P, P - 0A4. 39 R(R2) - R5, R - K1
40 P R5. Black exceeded the time limit

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Competition 6528 Solution next week
Black



• NEW Jet Black w/ 'Quickly' Grade 2 'Fly.

Solution to #525 (Hammann - Brinck Classen, Mast
ings, 1982-83) (4rk1/pp2ppb/6p1/8/8nq1P3
2N1BPP/PP4NP/4R4K1 - Black to play) B3c, K wor-
ry, a b Q4 x K1 i, K, n B x K1 B5 P x B
K1 Q4 and White resigned.

Problem No 1182 Solution read in the
W. Speckmann (14 December 1954) (8/13p2/-
bP6 tp4R/p2p2P1/P2P4/8/8 - 7 White men, 7
black) White to play, and mate in five moves.

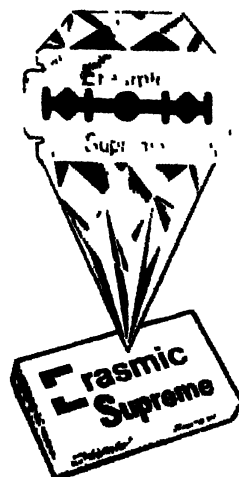
Solution to No 1191 (Bellacchio) (S24p1822p2R1;
1b1h4Bp4K21004W/O - mate in two) 1 R Kb6
(1) rec 2 Q Kb1 (a) 1 P x R 2 B KxR (b)
B Q2 2 B4 (c) 1 B Q6 ?
Q B5 d1 2 Q x K (B6; 2 R x B (e)
a - Q5 2 R (Kx2) x (f) 1 Q Bb 2 HxM6)

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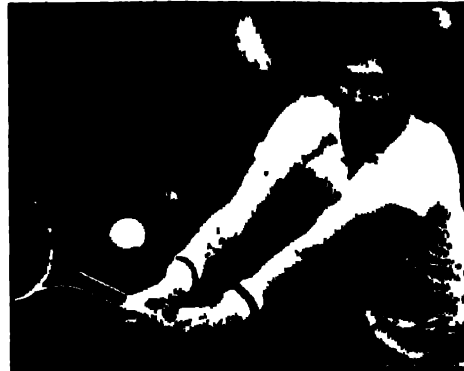
yarn

21 JULY 1982

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Sportsworld

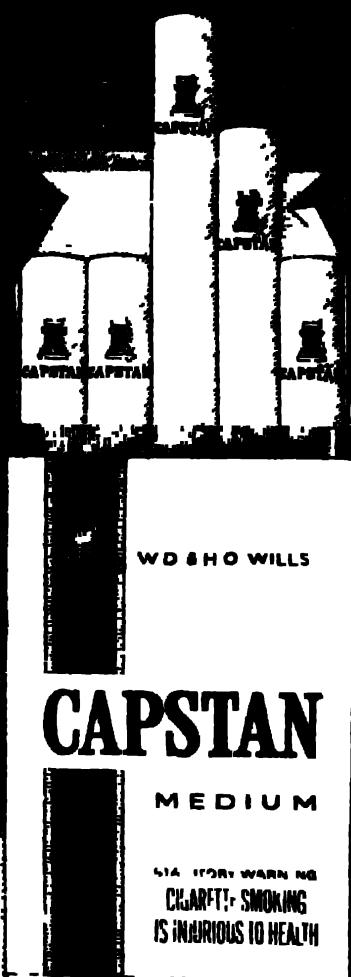
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VOLUME IV ISSUE 39 AN ANANDA BAZAR PUBLICATION Rs 2



JIMNASTICS AT ITS BEST

In an exclusive article, DAVID IRVINE of *The Guardian* dwells on this year's Wimbledon, on McEnroe's defeat, Connors' return after eight years



SAMBAS SILENCED

The Brazilians are out. And that is, perhaps, the most sensational piece of news of the World Cup. ARIJIT SEN was on the spot in Spain and writes back to tell how the upset came about

31 IT IS ALL IN THE MIND

After his wonderful performances in the Kenyan Safari, SHEKHAR MEHTA has emerged as one of the top-notchers in the world of car rallies. HARESH MUNWANI met him in Bombay to know what life is like on the circuit



SPECIAL FEATURES

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Cover transparency of World Cup soccer by Colorsport

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Letters to the Editor

Right decision

I THINK that Subrata Bhattacharya took the right decision to abstain from playing international soccer. It was apparent during the Federation Cup that Subrata was on the decline. In fact, the star performer was seen fumbling quite too often and was beaten in the air also, a thing that had not happened too often in his heydays. His fitness, too, was in doubt.

One should keep in mind that Subrata is not getting younger. With due respect to this lion-hearted player let me state that his club-mate and Indian defender, Sudip Chatterji, is more sound at present and a more capable left stopper than Subrata.

One thing can be said in favour of Subrata and it is that he was not utilised to the full by the national selectors during his peak days. This is very much evident from the profile of Subrata published in the 23 June issue of your magazine.

As an admirer of the game and of the footballers in the country I naturally feel sorry for Subrata for the treatment meted out to him in the past by the national coaches and selectors. One always remembers him fighting to the last bit to see his side victorious. The accusation one hears about his alleged non-co-operation, therefore, appears too harsh on him.

A K PREMCHAND,
Calcutta

because he was from the North. Just before he got the post he had assaulted an umpire in the Bombay Gold Cup. If the players from Calcutta can be suspended for throwing their shoes at the umpire why cannot Sodhi be banned for a more heinous crime? This only reflects that K. L. Passi and the Bombay Association have no power for they would have made sure that he was suspended.

The second case to come up against Sodhi was when he refused to leave the field and be replaced against Pakistan in the Champions Cup. Here it was where the Balbir Singhs (junior and senior) showed that they couldn't mean business.

ASHISH TREHAN,
Bombay

Give a hand

LET us give a hand to Ldihyendu Barua's achievement of winning the Group B Chess Championship in India. While unlimited money is being spent on sports we would like to see what the newly-formed Government in West Bengal does for him. Let me remind those in power that Russia encourages little children to play chess from a very young age. The communist cabinet led by Mr Jyoti Basu may not encourage it if it is not written down in Marx's *Das Kapital*. But we hope that deviates from his policy much to the glee of genuine lovers of sport in the state and the country.

PAPU and MITHU,
Tollygunge

Sorry state

THE sorry state of affairs concerning sports in our country was revealed by the heart-touching story of the ace long-jumper T. C. Yohannan. The fact that his leg was not cared for by the government and the sports bodies probably cost India a medal at the last Olympics and the coming Asian Games. The only silver lin-

Sodhi: A failure

IF India can play well without Bhaskaran, Grewal, Kaushik and Surjit Singh, then it can certainly do better without Surinder Singh Sodhi, who has been a failure both as a captain and as a player.

Actually speaking, I. M. Mahajan appointed him

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ing in the cloud was at the Teheran Asiad where Yohannan set a record in the long jump event. The step-motherly treatment by the government of the athletes should be condemned by the sporting personalities of the country.

S S HARIHARAN,
Madurai

Interesting

IN 'My Most Memorable Moments' of the *Sportsworld* of 12 May, 1982, the experiences of K. T. Pavithran were interesting as he was one of the finest outside lefts who rubbed shoulders with P. K. Banerjee, Kittu, Mewalal and Kannan. Pavithran started his career with the Lucky Star Club of Cannanore, the nursery of many great soccer stars. He later joined Calcutta, who had a good soccer team and unearthed many talented players.

Let me add that Pavithran in his heydays could not find a place in the team to represent the country in the 1956 Olympics. Our team finished fourth in what is now considered as the 'golden era' of Indian soccer. The 'quota system' that is plaguing every sporting discipline prevailed in those days, too, and that prevented the in-form Pavithran from entering the Indian side.

This system of vested interests spoils the careers of many aspiring players. The present Indian cricket team is an excellent example of the whims and fancies of the selectors who have included quite a few cricketers who would struggle to find a place even in a Ranji side. Strange are their ways!

K V ANANTHAK
RISHNAN,
Trivandrum

Best since 1970

I FEEL that the best English side since 1970 was the team that played in the fourth Test of the 1977 series against Australia at Leeds. The team went as follows: Mike Brearley (captain), Geoff Boycott, Bob Woolmer, Derek Randall, Tony Greig, Graham Roope, Alan Knott, Bob Willis, Ian Botham, Derek Underwood and Mike

Hendrick. As it is clearly evident, the team was led by a very able man and was very well-balanced. It is good to see some of the players who played in that Test still playing, such as Botham and Willis. It is also unfortunate to find Boycott, Woolmer, Knott and Underwood being banned for playing in South Africa this year.

R VIDHYACHARAN,
Pune

Misleading

ON the fifth day of the first Test at Lord's the commentators, Raj Singh Dungarpur and Inder Mohan Sahai, offered a comment that the pitch at Lord's was one step ahead of the strip at the Ferozeshah Kotla, thereby implying that the wicket was dead. But let me explain to the contrary. In the Lord's Test six wickets fell on the first day while nine fell on the second day. But on the third in only two hours as many as seven wickets fell while eleven men perished on the fourth. So I cannot understand as to how the respected gentlemen came to such a decision and said that the Delhi wicket was dead.

SUKUMAR BHAT
TACHARYA,
Katni

Incentive

I BELIEVE that athlete Raj Kumar's recent performance in an international competition has received less publicity than it ought to have. After all, it is not everyday that an Indian beats the Chinese, the Japanese and the Russians in a track and field event to win the gold. I feel that he should be given an amount, not less than Rs 5,000, to give the incentive to do better.

P NAIR,
Delhi

England Kapilled

IT would have been more appropriate to mention on the cover of *Sportsworld* "England Kapilled" rather than one which said that his heroics had been in vain. This is to remind you that your magazine had covered the Jubilee

Test at Bombay with a heading concerning Botham of a very similar nature. In this case, though Kapil did not score a century and India lost the Test Kapil's performance was in no case less than that of Ian Botham.
M VENKAT RAMAN,
Jamshedpur.

Errors

WHILE writing on cricket umpiring (Caught in the act) in the issue of 23 June, 1982, Mr K R Wadhwaney has erred in stating that

1) Don Bradman scored 234 in the Brisbane Test versus England in 1946-47. Actually he scored 187 and in the next Test at Sydney, Syd Barnes and he scored 234 each

2) John Ikin, who 'caught' Bradman visited India in 1950-51 and 1951-52 with the second Commonwealth team and the England team respectively. The writer had mentioned that Ikin toured in 1949-50 with the first Commonwealth side, which is incorrect

T D MUKHERJEE,
Varanasi

IN your issue dated 16 June, 1982, Sharmila Guha's question was wrongly answered by Sudhir Vaidya. The correct answer to the query whether a batsman, who is caught by a fielder with one leg outside the boundary line is out or not should be 'No' and not 'Yes'

M R SINGH,
Bombay

My best Indian team

IN response to your invitation to readers to compose their best Indian team since 1932, I suggest the following:

S Gavaskar (captain), V Merchant, V Hazare, G R Vishwanath, P Umrigar (vice-captain), V. Manjrekar, Vinoo Mankad, F M Engineer, Kapil Dev, Ramakant Desai, B. S Chandrashekhar. Twelfth man. Nawab of Pataudi jr. The team has been listed according to the batting order

M. GOUTAM PRAKASH KHARIWAL,
Bangalore.

Astonishing

IT is astonishing to find that out of the 24 international teams fighting each other for the World Cup soccer title only one should be from Asia. This looks like a clear policy to oust the Asians from this prestigious tournament. And it really is surprising to find that 14 places have gone to countries from Europe while the world's most populated continent can afford to send only one entry—Kuwait.

TANWEER ALAM,
Gaya

Not the greatest

IT is about time that people stopped accusing Ivan Lendl of being a chicken for not playing at Wimbledon. There are two reasons for his non participation. Firstly, Lendl is not a good player on grass so there is no sense in his going to London and being knocked out in the first round. Just because Wimbledon means tradition does not mean that everyone should play there.

Secondly, a glance at the views of Borg, McEnroe, Teltscher and Gerulaitis will confirm that all is not well with the running of the tournament. Against this background, Lendl's accusation that he is not even allowed to practise on the courts there must be taken into account.

Unless Wimbledon's officials give up their stiff-necked and high-handed attitude this competition could become one only for the second rankers—and that would be a pity

DEEPAK GOIL,
Bangalore

Final say

IF playing in South Africa is banned, then why not arrange a match involving the Springboks in North Africa? That would be a lawfully flawless act!

PRABAL GUHA,
Balijan North

Pulled muscle?



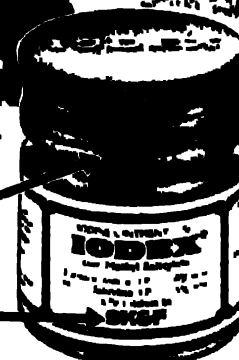
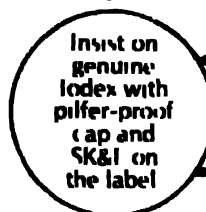
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WIMBLEDON 1982

Jimbo comes back in style

DAVID IRVINE



THEY do, after all, come back. In the longest men's final ever played at Wimbledon, four hours and 14 minutes, Jimmy Connors unseated the title holder John McEnroe 3-6, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 to win the title back after an eight-year break.

Only one man in the tournament's history has achieved anything like that—Bill Tilden, perhaps, the greatest of all the Americans, recaptured the title after a nine-year break in 1930. For Connors, though, it must have come like a transfusion to his career, for he had not won any of the great events since the US Open in 1978.

Had Connors been a superstitious man, the penultimate point might well have filled him with unease. With three match points before him he went for a big serve on his second delivery and double faulted for the 13th time. It might have unnerved some men, but not this strapping, confident 29-year-old. His next ball exploded on a puff of powder as the ball caught the line and McEnroe was gone.

Those expecting some fireworks with which to celebrate America's Independence Day were disappointed. Much of the match resembled a succession of damp squibs as both players, oddly, seemed to close to becoming consumed by the occasion. McEnroe's game, like his personality, is always perched on a knife's edge, but he can rarely have played such an indecisive title match.

One could sense from the start that his reservations about his serve had not gone. He had immediate trouble with his toss and, on and off, it bothered him throughout the match. He did finish with 19 aces to his credit, and yet he was only three behind Connors on the double-fault count.

As old adversaries—it was the 19th meeting—McEnroe had some scores to settle. Connors had beaten him in the Wembley Indoor final in November and again to take the Queen's Club title last month—and he was determined that the 1974 champion should not annexe his Wimbledon territory.

It seemed he would prove successful when the first set fell to McEnroe in 42 minutes after Connors, 3-1 ahead, lost the next five games and showed his anxiety in a sequence of netted forehands. The shot that, perhaps most of all, had contributed to his decline in recent years.

Again, in the second, Connors made the early move. McEnroe was rather casual, chopping a volley into the net to go love 2 down, but then broke back only to lose his serve again to a now more determined Connors in the fourth. The tennis remained riddled with error, Connors proving slightly less careless than the anguished McEnroe, whose verbal flagellation was often as ex-

citable as Max Robertson's wireless commentary

Connors held on to level in the second set and should have had the third when he served for it at 5-4 and 30-all, only to produce consecutive double faults. McEnroe celebrated his escape by winning the tie-break 7-2 and, at that stage, looked like moving forward to a successful defence of the title—something no American had done since Don Budge in the Thirties.

That spate of double faults in the third set said Connors afterwards, "almost cost me the match." He thought that the key to his victory was the fact that he controlled and won the fourth set, after that experience. "Against McEnroe you just have to stay in there on every point," he said. "Neither one of us was going to roll over and die. It was kill or be killed. That's why we have such great matches."

The only time he seriously considered that victory was complete was when McEnroe failed to return his final serve. And that probably has summed it up. Asked where this performance stood against other highlights of his career Connors, typically, declined to answer specifically. But he was conscious of the fact that only one other player had bridged such an enormous gap in winning two titles.

"I did in 1974, and once you do it that's fine and dandy—if you want to be a one timer. I'm no one-timer. I have had three chances since then and they slipped me by. I had another chance this time and I was going to do anything to not let it slip again even if it meant a fight to the death."

Connors is nothing if not a fighter. Though much of the tennis was like the weather, rather dull with a few bright intervals, Connors managed to galvanise his game in the second tie-break. Despite two intimidating service aces from McEnroe, he forced set point with a fierce return and sunk home a service winner to level the match after three hours and 29 minutes.

That was the moment Connors had been waiting for, the arrival of a situation he had neither known nor savoured for four years. He punched the air in exaltation, just as he did in the old days, and McEnroe seemed almost to shrink at the opposite end of the court. The crowd were largely united behind the older man and he was not going to let his supporters down.

The tension overtook tedium and, from an atmosphere of almost embarrassed silence, the Centre Court gave vent to its feelings. Every point was greeted with applause if it was in Connors' favour and McEnroe, looking tired after his concerted exertion in singles and doubles, faced an uphill if not impossible task. The crucial break came quick-

ly, in the third game McEnroe double-faulted, hit a low volley out, missed a daring top volley and was then left helpless as Connors punched a backhand return for the crucial winner.

Connors was never again tested on his own serve. McEnroe responded with some dazzlingly played points but with the scent of victory all round him, Connors was not to be denied. His final serve had a superb irony about it, for until this year he had always considered his serve the weakest part of his game and his wicked returns his strongest.

Thus the left's domination of Wimbledon was complete—not since 1969 had two left-handers won both the men's and women's singles.



Women's singles champion Martina Navratilova

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA now stands on the brink of the first grand slam since Margaret Court's in 1970. Once again, she emerged as Chris Lloyd's nemesis in the women's singles final when, after a brief passage of self-doubt when she saw victory slipping away, she recovered brilliantly to win 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 and take the title for the third time in five years.

As the holder of the Australian and French Opens, she is now poised to match the stunning achievements of Margaret Court and Mo Connolly, the only other player to win all four legs in 1953. To do so she must win the US Open in September. "Somebody is going to have to play a hell of

a match to beat me," she warned.

On her form and consistency this year—already she has won one million dollars and lost only once in 55 matches—her confidence is supremely well-placed. Nor is she lacking in incentive. Apart from the Grand Slam she stands to win another 500,000 dollars in the Playtex Challenge, a test put up by an American company to anyone who could win four specified championships on four different surfaces.

It was the third time Miss Navratilova and Mrs Lloyd had met in a Centre Court final and there was no change in the pattern. Indeed it seemed at one stage as though Miss Navratilova would record one of the fastest victories, for she captured the first set in only 22 minutes and was immediately a break up in the second.

Having played well below par at the start, conceding free points with a host of unforced forehand errors, Mrs Lloyd suddenly put her game together. At 3-2 to Miss Navratilova she was attacked by a wasp and this, it seemed, broke the number one seed's concentration.

Quite suddenly Mrs Lloyd's passing shots began to sing. Miss Navratilova's concentration and confidence were clearly affected and, when she put a smash in the net off a lob, Mrs Lloyd recovered to three all and went on to take the second set at a cost of only three further points.

"It's always hard when you are the favourite and are winning," said Miss Navratilova. "And all of a sudden you see the match slipping away. I was thinking, Oh God, here it comes." I could just see it—Evert upsets Navratilova—because it would have been an upset.

But there were no signs of panic that once affected her. Though Mrs Lloyd did lead 2-1 in the second, Miss Navratilova decided to go on the offensive, charged the net and began to smash away her backhand volleys with the same precision and force with which she had dominated in the early stages.

She mixed up her game too confusingly for Mrs Lloyd, who was surprised by her use of the drop shot, and at 40-30 in the sixth game, needing just one point for three-all, Mrs Lloyd stabbed a feeble forehand into the net.

That, in effect, was that. A low forehand volley off a smash gave Miss Navratilova break point and, on the next, she hammered a backhand down the line which Mrs Lloyd was unable to control. From 15-30 in the seventh the new champion won seven consecutive points.

"In the end it was so easy," she said. "It was amazing, that last game I wasn't even nervous." It was a triumph well deserved, a point which even Mrs Lloyd was prepared to concede. She felt she became too tentative when ahead in the final set. (Courtesy THE GUARDIAN)

WORLD CUP '82

Sambas silenced

Noble efforts in vain. The Brazilians started their campaign on an aggressive note and no hurdle seemed insuperable to them when they trounced their neighbours Argentina almost hands down. But Italy stood in their way and Latin American soccer was banished from the tournament, as a result.

ARIJIT SEN narrates the drama from Spain

IF ever a World Cup had surprises in store, it was the 12th in Spain. From the very beginning, one found a sensation lurking in the most innocent of encounters. Starting with the humiliation of Argentina by Belgium and continuing with Algeria's demolition of the mighty Germans, the World Cup competition offered the spectacle of the seemingly unbeatable—and certainly unflappable—Brazilians and the workmanlike English being nosed out of the championship, hard on the heels of the ignominious exit of Argentina.

A month ago, only the avid punter would have forecast a semi final line up of Poland versus Italy and West Germany versus France. But it was just that—an all European line up at both Barcelona and Seville—defying both seedings and logic. What's

more—apart from the still-unbelievable Italian triumph over Brazil—they all deserved their places in the elite brigade.

Hindsight provides the answer to this strange occurrence. The abysmal form of the semi-finalists can be attributed to several factors, primary of which was the none too early peaking of the other teams.

For most of the teams now in the last four it was a fortuitous climb to the second phase. There was, for example, the sight of Italy aggregating the same points as Cameroon. They got through only because they had scored two goals, conceding two, while Cameroon managed a goal each on the debit and credit side. West Germany came up the same way though they had a better scoring balance sheet. What is ironic about

this competition is that Poland and Italy had already met in the first phase. Neither team scored in that encounter, but in the semis in Barcelona, there could be a different result. Unlike the rule for the final, there is to be no replay, penalties deciding the issue.

Unfortunately for Brazil, they seemed to have peaked too early in the World Cup. They won all their matches, scored as many as ten goals and conceded only two. West Germany were another side which came up with an uneven performance, losing to Algeria in the first phase and getting through the second only because England could not score twice against Spain. Poland and Italy, however, have scaled new heights with each appearance in the second phase, the former beating Belgium



Socrates leads the Brazilian Goose Step. Others in the picture are (from right) Renato, Oscar, Toninho Cerezo, Lusinho and Roberto Dynamita.

and bottling up USSR and the latter sweeping past the two best South American outfits, Argentina and Brazil

BRAZIL vs ITALY

ITALY rose from the ashes of Mussolini's debris to puncture the pride and demolish the delicate artistry of Brazil on a warm summer afternoon in Barcelona to reach the semi-final of an extremely topsy-turvy twelfth World Cup. It was a match many veterans felt should rank among the best this illustrious competition has seen in 52 years. The brilliance of individuals—led by a hat-trick blasting Paulo Rossi—coupled with fantastic tactical moves made it a memorable match. In fact, it bordered on fantasy, as the pendulum swung crazily from one side to the other.

The Italians did not prove that they were the better side. Far from it, Brazil still retained the charm of individualistic play that is rarely seen anywhere else in the world. But their tremendous hard work, coupled with great opportunism, earned them a victory that should surely rank among their greatest. And that includes the two Cup victories, one against Czechoslovakia in 1934 and Hungary in 1938.

For Brazil, Cerezo's monetary lapse in the first half proved fatal.

But it also showed up the brittleness of the Brazilian goal and the fact that Waldir Peres is not the best of all goalkeepers. In the end, it was their own failure to convert chances that proved to be their undoing. But this year's World Cup will ever be remembered as Brazil's for the taking. They had the best set of players, but somehow, they lost their way to the goal.

The first half produced an electric atmosphere. The Italians, known the world over for their ultra-defensive ploys, were expected to wall up and then hope for a sudden counter-attack to produce the one goal they needed to reach the semi-finals. But the Italians needed none of that.

Even as the game commenced, Italy energetically probed the Brazilian defence and in the fifth minute, found a path past Waldir Peres. In a brilliant manoeuvre, the ball was floated from the right to Cabrini on the left. He floated the ball past the entire defence in the penalty area to an onrushing Paulo Rossi, who headed in smoothly.

It took the Brazilians some time to settle down, but once they did, they got into the smooth rhythm that so characterised their play. Sociates got the ball in his own penalty area and sent a forward pass for Zico. He did not stop running, however, and took a return forward pass just outside the opposition penalty area. He

dodged two defenders, waited for Dino Zoff to lean to the right and then placed to his left.

But the Italians came back with a goal in the 25th minute. It was a faulty clearance by Cerezo which found Rossi in possession just outside the box. He went into an unguarded penalty area to send a stiff volley ballooning into the net (2-1).

Zico found Falcao shortly after, but his angular shot just missed the near post. In the very next minute, however, Bruno Conti ran about 80 yards, outpacing the Brazilians who had all come forward to help in the attack, but his energy sapped in the heat and all he could do was to push the ball towards the goalkeeper. In a good move through the middle, the Brazilians went up and Cerezo got the ball at the edge of the penalty area. But veteran Zoff saw the move and was at the edge of the box himself in a flash to parry the ground ball. Cerezo had already unleashed. While Graziani split the defence at the other end, he could not direct the ball to the goal. Just before the interval, a stinging freekick by Eder was saved on the line by Zoff.

The Italians continued to have a fair share of the exchanges in the second half, but it was the Brazilians who struck in the 69th minute. Zico got the ball to an unmarked Falcao on the right. The latter side-stepped



Argentina's Américo Gallego (8) sandwiched between (from left) Italians Orsi, Paolo Rossi and Gastano



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of West Germany (left) and Mick Mills of England fighting for the ball. The match ended goalless.

the defence and beat Zoff with a gem of a shot (2-2).

The Brazilians made the fatal mistake of resting on their oars and the Italians were quick to seize the opportunity of surging ahead once again. The Brazilians left wide gaps in midfield, particularly on their right flank. Time and again there were counter attacks, any of which could have proved the undoing of the South Americans.

But the danger did not come from there, despite narrow escapes. Ultimately, it was a corner taken by the Italians in the 75th minute that spelt the Brazilians' doom. The ball went to Tardelli at the edge of the box. He volleyed the ball towards the goal. But even as Peres positioned himself for it, the irrepressible Rossi swerved his body and the ball to the right, without letting it touch the ground. It beat Peres all the way (3-2).

There was still time left, but some of the Brazilian edge already seemed to have gone. They did mount a massive offensive, pressing 10 men into attack, but first Falcão, then Socrates and Zico and Eder kept trying to beat Zoff, but to no avail. Eder's freekick was the closest on target, but that stinging shot was held by Zoff, although it came perilously close to the goal-line.

ENGLAND vs SPAIN

ENGLAND faltered on the brink of greater glory, allowing an out-of-form West Germany to coast into the semi-finals of the 12th World Cup. This was all because there was

no one in the England squad who could score a goal against Spain, the hosts and perhaps the worst team in the second phase of the competition. As things turned out, Spain put in the best performance they were capable of in this last match of the second phase of the competition.

The Barnabeu is capable of holding 90,800 people. There weren't many empty spaces in the terraces as the two teams took the field. The match was extremely important for England, because West Germany after holding England, had beaten Spain 2-1. Naturally, England had to win by two clear goals to enter the semis. For Spain, there was the tension of an unhappy football exercise, which began with a hard earned, referee-aided 1-1 draw with unpretentious Honduras and continued through one victory and one defeat before the second-stage encounter with Germany. They badly needed to salvage some of their honour in home ground conditions.

But, apart from the mathematical interest, there was nothing of note in this encounter. That is, apart from the spectacle of Spain missing more and easier chances of scoring than England.

If Spain had had a good striker, there is no knowing what the ultimate result would have been. They would then not have had to watch helplessly as Alonso missed a hat-trick of sitters. These, added to the four other easy chances that Satrustegui and Santiana missed, sums up the number of scoring opportunities that came Spain's way each time they counter-attacked. In contrast, England had four possibilities, but

each time, they either shot or headed wide, or put the ball in the path of the bundle of nerves that Spanish captain Arcanada was. He was so shaky, he even fisted away a curving corner that was literally floating towards him.

But, England—who looked dangerous only after Trevor Brooking and Kevin Keegan got up from the substitutes' bench—did not take their chances and also did not capitalise on the goalkeeper's nervousness by taking many more shots from outside the box. This last match will certainly not be remembered by anyone other than the players involved and the odd historian. Although it was not as dreary a draw as those played out by Italy in the early stages of the competition and the more recent England-West Germany encounter, this match did not produce thrills other than the negative ones of missed chances. But the Spanish supporters went home happy. At least they went out of the competition with head held straight, if not exactly high.

USSR vs POLAND

IN Group A, Belgium had come a cropper against both Poland and the Soviet Union and so it was left to these two to decide which one would go through to the semi-finals. The USSR had come with a great reputation. They had not lost a match other than the one against Brazil in 27 outings, an enviable record that the Poles could certainly not match.

But the red-shirt brigade from Warsaw had beaten Belgium through

Boniek's hat-trick and so had only to hold USSR to a draw to qualify. The USSR had scored only once. This encounter, therefore, was to be a do-or-die attempt for the Soviets.

The Poles, however, had a different score to settle. The match naturally took on political overtones, which was evident when the niggling by players drew angry gestures from their opponents and, invariably, the player telled refused the hand of his adversary when offered to help him to his feet. Of more advantage to the Poles was the backing of the Polish supporters in the stands and thousands of Spaniards, who were firmly against anything the USSR players did. Huge banners of the now banned Solidarity Union were displayed on the terraces by the Poles who had not already defected to the West. Of the 500 allowed to travel to Spain, 200 had left their coaches even before they arrived in Spain. Another 400 are intending to stay on in Spain after the World Cup.

But all these thoughts were not on the minds of the players of either team as they assembled for the final encounter. But it was evident that politics weighed heavily on their minds as the game developed into a cat and mouse affair, the teams changing roles often but never getting out of the maze of their own making. And although there was no open conflict, hard tackles seemed the order of the day, resulting in the booking of four Soviets and one Polish player. They were sweeper Chivadse, Gaborilov, Borovsky and Baltacha. The Pole, unfortunately for that team, was Zbigniew Boniek, captain and star player. This was the second time in the championship that he was shown the yellow card, which as it turned out, meant he would miss Poland's semi-final against either Brazil or Italy.

Referee Bob Valentine of Scotland however kept a strict watch on the proceedings, which may be one reason why the game did not develop into a full scale war. But the USSR were quick to make their intentions clear. In the second minute itself, Boniek was brought down heavily just outside the box as he and Lato were briskly one twoing towards the Soviet goal. Lato, too, came in for some rough treatment in the early stages which may have forced the Poles into a more defensive role.

After the initial probes of the Poles, the USSR midfielders got the ball going. They came closest to scoring in the 25th minute when Onagesian dodged two Polish defenders near the left flank before sending a rather stiff cross into the penalty area. Even as the out-of-form Shegelia readied himself to head Sulakvalidse raced in to connect powerfully. Unfortunately for him the ball rocketed into play with the goalkeeper totally beaten. In the 34th minute, Andricej Buncol raced

down, taking two defenders with him and laid an easy cross on the path of Grejgorz Lato, the balding veteran of 1974. But the latter missed the line of the ball, thus wasting a guilt-edged opportunity. These were the only two positive chances in the first half, which saw Chivadse and Boniek get the yellow card for rough tackles.

Andricev replaced Shegelia, who had taken several knocks, early in the second half. This did not improve matters as Blokhin, the only other Soviet threat, was kept bottled up by Zmuda especially and Dziuba, both of whom were careful not to allow him shoot with his lethal left foot. The Poles ventured into Soviet territory in the initial stages and came close to scoring twice. On both occasions, however, Rinat Dassaev the tall and confident Soviet keeper, was on hand. First, he collected a Waldemar Matysik drive and then, in the very next minute, Boniek's angular but low and stiff shot, in the second attempt.

With 15 minutes remaining, the Poles shut their doors to all Soviet advances, indulging in time wastage devices like keeping the ball in control at the edge of the line, inviting Soviet tackles that would get the ball over the goal or touchline, which would mean the passing of a few more seconds.

France vs Northern Ireland

France took their appointed place in the semi-finals of the twelfth World Cup, dashing the hopes and dreams of a fairy-tale for Northern Ireland. Producing a superb performance—the best they have in Spain so far—France rattled and shook the Irish violently, winning 4-1 and looking good for more.

In a dazzling display of midfield control and fast approach work towards goal, the French outplayed the Irish in every department of the game—especially in midfield, where Giresse was outstanding. Apart from scoring twice, he appeared to be always on hand to start a startling move up front. In this, he was helped by Tigana. And Platini did his bit, especially in the first half, in gearing the attack towards the opposition goal. France, thus, won both their matches convincingly and now await the winners of Group B, involving England and West Germany.

An interesting aspect of the score was that every time France beat Northern Ireland, they had scored four goals. Back in 1958, they had ousted the Irish by that margin from the quarter finals of the World Cup and in March this year, they again scored four goals without reply in a friendly encounter. One can only say that Ireland took one step forward by scoring a goal.

The first half saw France begin in whirlwind fashion, moving up quickly and sharply. They succeeded in

upsetting the rather slow Irish defence. This proved an effective ploy as the Ireland players found it difficult to counter-attack after long spells deep in their own area. A measure of French supremacy in midfield can be gauged from the fact that all the Irish players, bar none, were busy defending, mostly in their own penalty area.

After the initial torays failed to produce goals, the French came close to scoring in the 24th minute. Following Giresse's free kick, Rocheteau took a shot which was partially saved by Jimmy Nichols. The ball came to Platini, who swerved before taking a crack, which was pushed by Pat Jennings and eventually cleared by the defenders. Two minutes later, Martin O'Neill scored, but he was clearly off side, so Northern Ireland's moment of glory was denied them. In the 32nd minute, Soler toed the ball out after Rocheteau had centred.

Two minutes later, France came up with their first goal. Platini, who raced to the goal line in the penalty area and took three defenders with him, suddenly cut the ball back at an acute angle. Giresse was standing unmarked on the edge of the goal area. He sent a stiff grounder which was clearly beyond the reach of custodian Jennings (1-0).

The French started the second session where they had left off in the first and in the very second minute, surged ahead. It was a high pass from Tigana that started the progress. Rocheteau, still in his own half, chested the ball down and simultaneously swivelled on his feet to beat one Irishman. From there, he raced a good 50 yards, eluding two defenders before taking a low shot on the run. He was racing down the left flank, but Jennings did not cover the near post. It was from this narrow angle between the post and goal keeper that the ball entered the net (2-0).

After Fressot of France and Hamilton of Northern Ireland were booked—one for dissent and the other for a bad tackle—Soler was replaced by Didier Six. Rocheteau, who had seen a header miss the target by less than a foot, was always looking dangerous. In the 68th minute, a free kick found Rocheteau in possession at the edge of the box. He feinted and lost two defenders before taking a left footer and finding the same gap that produced the earlier goal (3-0).

Just when all seemed lost, Northern Ireland pulled one back. Whiteside won the ball and kept it in the corridor between the penalty area and the touchline before crossing into the penalty area where Armstrong shot in (3-1).

But any dreams of a comeback were dashed in the 35th minute when Tigana crossed to Giresse and the latter nodded home his second goal of the tournament (4-1).

SPAIN VS WEST GERMANY

ONE of the most disappointing aspects of this tournament had been the obvious lack of class of the hosts and the almost total absence of inspiration on the part of the vaunted Germans. Despite all the canisters, drums, whistles and flags, the Spaniards showed from the start that they were not world class by any stretch of imagination. They did have a few players who could be rated good by European standards—Alesanco, Juanito, Zamora and Quini—but they flopped as a team, with virtually no understanding among the players and a dreadful lack of finish. The Germans, on the other hand, proved the dampest squib of the tournament. Perhaps, it was the Algeria debacle in their opening match, but from the start they seemed to be in morbid fear of conceding goals. This stunted the style of players of the calibre of main striker Rummenigge and the fast and tricky winger Littbarski. They did manage to erect an almost impenetrable defence, but the lack of effort and desire to move up was clear from the start of every match. The only time they ever scored more than one goal in this tournament was against Chile (4-1) in a Group Two match.

As in their utterly uninspiring encounter with England, the Germans started out very tentatively against Spain. Starting out with the psychological advantage of playing a team which had already dropped a point, the Spaniards began strongly and, for the first time in the tournament, looked as if they had come to win. The game soon developed into an open encounter with both sides willing to come out of their defensive cocoons. It was entertaining football, due also to the fact that the Spaniards did not resort to the elbowing and kicking tactics that had earned them a bad name.

Gradually, it became apparent that the Germans were technically the better side. Littbarski led most of the attacks, as it became apparent that Rummenigge was still nursing his hamstring injury. He was replaced after halftime by Reinders. Four minutes into the second session, West Germany surged ahead. Dremmler took a rasping shot, but Arconada let it fall off his hands. Littbarski swooped in to score.

The Spaniards naturally went up in search of the equaliser, and left wide gaps in midfield. It was through one of these that Breitner sent the ball and Littbarski pounced on it. Even as the Spanish captain and goalkeeper Arconada—who had a bad tournament, with several, some times elementary mistakes—advanced to narrow the angle, Littbarski passed to an unmarked Fischer who placed the ball into an empty goal.

That was in the 75th minute. But

even as the Spanish flags were being folded up in the stadium, Sanchez—who replaced Quini—sent a long floater which Zamora headed home with aplomb. But this proved the only talking point for the Spaniards, apart from a minor row that ensued after the goal, resulting in the booking of Sanchez, Camacho and the German Briegel.

USSR VS BELGIUM

The Soviet Union did not earn many friends in Spain. They came with a lot of fanfare, supposed specialists giving them good odds to win the World Cup. They had a set of players, particularly in sweeper Chivadze, midfielders Bessanov and the new discovery Bal, along with the fleet-footed Footballer of the Year, vintage '75, Blokhin.

They began well, too. Had it not been for a timid and slow referee, they might even have beaten Brazil as two penalties were denied them. Even the 1-2 scoresheet did them proud. But, thereafter, things did not run smooth. They edged past Scotland—who held them to a 2-2 draw—on a mere goal difference and did not play well enough in a single match. In fact, they looked a disjointed side as they took the field against a dispirited Belgian side. This is not to suggest that their approach up to midfield was anything but well organised and planned, but there seemed a gulf of difference between the thinkings of the players involved with the ball. Every attack would invariably end in a misspass or a well directed shot at the goal. There also seemed a peculiar penchant for individual play. Although the Belgian defence was not too strong, especially with goalkeeper Custers being replaced by Munaron, the Soviet players rarely posed a threat. Except, that is, in the 48th minute of play. On one of the few occasions when the USSR moved smoothly through the length of the field, Gavrilov raced down the line before floating a cross to Oganesyan, who was standing unmarked in the penalty area. The latter made no mistake.

The Belgians, who had all along been playing with apparent unconcern, tried to put in more effort. But their marksmanship did not improve. If they had taken chances—they had done so readily earlier in the tournament—the Belgians could certainly have kept themselves in the reckoning for a semi-final berth. But Vandermissem and especially Vandenberg, missed four gilt-edged chances (if scoring, the efforts of Coeck (pronounced Cook) in feeding them, going to waste. In the early stages of the match, Vandenberg failed to push the ball past Dasaev from three yards.

Thus, the Belgians, who startled the World Cup holders, Argentina, in the opening match of the cham-

pionship in Spain—at the same venue—faded out. They did have some imaginative players, but they lacked finish and, above all, the will to win. The only lasting memory of them will, perhaps, be the fact that two unlikely-looking brothers played for them—the bearded defender L. Millecamps and his shy brother, M. Millecamps.

NORTHERN IRELAND VS AUSTRIA

The fact that Northern Ireland had made it to the Second Round was a wonder. They did not have any internationally known players nor did they represent an affluent footballing set-up. Most of the players were young and inexperienced in terms of international football and some were assisting English Third Division sides before donning the by-now popular green colours. When they took the field against Austria, however, they had had the distinction of beating Spain and heading Group Five, which also featured Yugoslavia and Honduras. Austria, on the other hand, had already been beaten by France 1-0 in the second round and, therefore, had to go flat out to beat the Irish and then hope that France lost to the minnows.

But Northern Ireland continued in their indomitable fashion, adding a dash of skill to the huge unconquerable spirit that so characterised their performance from the time they started the preliminaries. They shot into the lead in the first half, saw themselves a goal down midway through the second and then equalised and finished the stronger team.

The game began with the Irish, playing to a 4-5-1 combination with Hamilton the lone man up front, getting involved in staccato exchanges with the Austrians mainly in midfield as both teams sparred to test each other's strengths and weaknesses. Then, in the 28th minute, McIlroy set up Gerry Armstrong on the right and the latter raced to wards the goal line, from where he despatched a measured cross to Hamilton, bearing stopper back Plezzey in the air. Hamilton was on hand to nod in, past goalkeeper Koncilia.

However, the Austrians seemed to have emerged from their dressing room after lemon time with new resolve. And there was nothing Pat Jennings' replacement for this match, Jim Platt, could have done in goal to prevent Plezzey edging the ball in to restore parity. This came five minutes after resumption and followed a faulty clearance by Chris Nicholl, which had ace Austrian forward, Schachner, finding the far post. Nicholl cleared from the line and the resultant corner paved the way for the goal.

Platt, making his first appearance after 37-year-old Jennings had a

Sidelights

WORLD CUP

Not like Spain

ONE lesson had been learnt quickly. The Colombian football authorities had already decided that they would not spread the 13th World Cup competition as wide and thin as Spain. Seventeen stadia have been pressed into service, stretching through 14 cities. Naturally, there have been organisational as well as playing problems. Although the President of the Colombian Football Federation, Mr Alfonso Senior Quevedo did not specify the number of cities he proposed to use as sites for the 1986 competition, it is likely that, apart from Bogota, Armenia, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellin and Pereira would be chosen. The President also set at rest rumours that neighbouring countries may be approached by Colombia to help stage the competition.

More than the printed price

TRAVEL agents all over the world have had a share in the Spanish spoils. Or so it seemed at the outset. But, as the competition warmed up, it became clear that all was not well on the Spanish front. There seemed to be a massive black market operating across the country. And unless the authorities were the mislaid not in on it, how was it possible that the tour operators found that seats in stadia were not in tune with the grade of hotels booked? Cheap seats were given to most tourists who came on 'package tours', while the seats actually meant for

them went into the hands of people demanding a lot more than the printed price. In fact some tour operators were threatening to sue the Organising Committee for an estimated 150 million dollars, if the blackmarketing continued.

The offers and prices

EVEN as several players were lining up to join new clubs in new countries after the end of the Spanish extravaganza, managers were being sized up by leading European clubs. The first on the list was Billy Bingham, the wonderman of Northern Ireland. He had reportedly been approached by three European clubs. Bingham took over the reins of the team two and a half years ago and his successes included the British Championship. But he had not yet been given a written contract for Northern Ireland. He was naturally peeved and the offers from abroad as well as the

interest now being shown by English first division sides were tempting. Bingham had a stint with the Greek national team and a leading Athens club. "I don't want any of that any more," he said. Which meant he would stay with the lads who performed so well in Spain. But not so Cesar Menotti, whose hour of glory in Spain is now a mere dream. He will naturally feel the wrath of his countrymen after returning to Buenos Aires, but he will go with a firm offer—about 120,000 dollars a year—from the Spanish club Valencia. Should things get really hot at home, he will naturally trek back to Spain.

We are not crooks

THE first phase of the championship saw several souvenirs being sold at the 17 centres. But a more intelligent device was hit on by a newspaper in Vigo. The local daily published a four-page supplement devoted to the Italians who came to

watch their team. These five thousand or so fans brought in great profit, according to the proprietors. But the Italian players—and their officials—have stopped talking to the Press. The players clamped shut after reports that players were getting astronomical cash rewards for reaching the second round. It was alleged that the players received over 50,000 dollars, but veteran goalkeeper Dino Zoff snuffed it out, saying "We are not crooks."

Ron's blunder

ENGLAND manager Ron Greenwood blundered badly when he pleaded with the FIFA Secretary Ted Cocker to ask FIFA whether England would go through to the semi-finals if they beat Spain 2-1, the same margin as West Germany. The argument was that, in the first phase, England had three wins and a better goal difference. Obviously, the rules were either not read or understood. FIFA clearly stated that if the goal difference position was identical in the second phase and if both teams had headed their respective groups in the first round, the semi-finalist would be chosen by the drawing of lots. The question had been answered even before it was placed. But Greenwood was on safer ground when he pointed out that he did not say that he disliked taking genuine wingers in his team because, allegedly, they only knew how to attack and once the ball went into their own half, they passed their time picking their noses.

Every drop fights
scalp dryness

Vaseline
HAIR TONIC
AND SCALP CONDITIONER



groin injury, fell again in the 68th minute when Plezzy pushed a free kick to Hintermaier, who shot in through a host of Irish legs. The Austrians, who had not fielded crack shooter, Hans Krankl, and replaced the highly rated Hagmyr with Welzl along with midfielder Hintermaier for deep defender Pregebauer, seemed coasting to a face-saving victory.

But, in the 75th minute, an Armstrong shot deflected off a defender to Jimmy Nicholl who floated the ball to an unguarded Hamilton for the new hero to nod in his second goal, a helpless Koncilja standing too far out to do anything.

The Irish, thus, put out the Austrians who had begun with a bang when they beat Chile and Algeria in Group Two. But there were no fears shed for the Austrians, who in no stage really looked dangerous. Their players came with big reputations but they had little to show. In fact one could have accused them of anything except putting in a concerted effort to win.

ENGLAND vs WEST GERMANY

If there is no individual brilliance, there is no joy in watching football. This is a home truth and it came through most forcefully in the England-West Germany encounter. Both teams could claim that the 90-plus temperature sapped energy, but that was not enough excuse for the drab, unimaginative display by England and the European champions, West Germany. They figured in more than a 0-0 draw. They showed up what European football really was—well organised but chess-like play. It was not football merely a display of defence set-ups.

The only notable features of this match were the two opportunities—yes, two in 90 minutes that presented themselves. First, it was Brian Robson, whose header was fisted over in a late backward dive by Schumacher, the German custodian and the other, a very late inside dodge by Karl Heinz Rummenigge of Germany and a sharp shot that beat the England goalkeeper Shilton, but hit the crosspiece and rebounded into play. This was three minutes before the end and had it proved a goal, it would have meant injustice to England who were not in the same class as Germany, but were better organised and had seen much more of the ball.

ARGENTINA vs BRAZIL

Striking a rhythm that made football seem a variation of the Samba, the Brazilians took a firm step towards the World Cup semi-final at Barcelona, with a convincing 3-1 win over world champions Argen-

tina. The latter are out of the World Cup. It was made a more disgraceful exit by the sending off of Maradona in the last stages of the match. The Brazilians, who led 1-0 at half time, scored through Zico, Serrinho and Junior. The margin was reduced by Ramon Diaz, who came in place of an out of form Mario Kempes.

The secret of the Brazilians' success was their iron control of the midfield and some brilliant individual performances by Zico, Junior, Leandro Oscar and above all Falcão, who had his best outing in the tournament so far. Now the Brazilians meet Italy who had beaten Argentina earlier on Monday next.

The first session saw a tentative start to what was understandably a very tense and crucial encounter. It was the Argentines who took the initiative first and they earned a corner and a free kick, but both proved abortive. The Brazilians with Leandro playing very well kept a tight leash on Maradona and with Kempes just a shadow of his 1978 self, the world champions did not trouble them too much.

Then in the 12th minute, a ball was floated to central attacker Serrinho but the latter was felled by Passarella. The resultant free kick from about 25 yards was taken by Elder. The bullet-like shot was partially saved by goalkeeper Lillo, but both Zico and Serrinho rushed in and Zico pushed in to score (1-0). But it appeared that both the Brazilians had rushed in before the free kick was taken, which made them both offside. But Mexican referee Mario Rubio did not see it nor did the linesman wave his flag.

Argentina earned a free kick and as Passarella came to head it down he was pushed from behind by Oscar. When he demanded a penalty, the referee showed him the yellow card. This was incidentally the seventh time an Argentine was booked. But in the very next minute Falcão chested down a pass in the penalty area but then swerved and missed a sitter. Four minutes later Zico also missed an easy chance when Falcão passed to him. In the 11st minute, a good one-two by Falcão and Socrates saw the former send in a bullet, but it was fisted over by the Argentine custodian Lillo. The next minute saw Argentina come closest to scoring when Passarella headed in a corner, but it was fisted over by Valdes Perez.

Argentina began strongly in the second session, with Kempes being stood down to allow Ramon Diaz to come in. They came close to equalising but Diaz shot a Bertoni pass off the mark. Zico also missed an easy chance when Leandro served him a chance on a platter.

Then in the 22nd minute of the second session Brazil's luck through Serrinho. The move started with Elder who passed to Zico. The latter

found Falcão, who, finding himself at an acute angle, floated the ball to an onrushing Serrinho for the latter to head in (2-0). Seven minutes later, a brilliant defence splitting pass by Zico found defender Junior, as if by remote control message in line to beat Lillo (3-0).

Brazilian goalkeeper Valdes Perez became the first Brazilian to be shown the yellow card when he argued with the referee. A little later, when Zico was fouled and had to be carried off, Batista found his first cap for Brazil in the World Cup. But he was in the centre of the action that saw Maradona sent off. As he came up to tackle Passarella, he appeared to have risen high enough to kick the Argentine. Although this was unintentional, Maradona showed his frustration at not being able to play well by kicking Batista off the ball. He was sent off and Oscar was shown the yellow card for threatening behaviour towards Maradona. Then a minute before the end Diaz scored a consolation goal for Argentina with a 20 yard drive (3-1).

BELGIUM vs POLAND

EVEN as France was celebrating a return to form in Madrid, the Poles who came to life only in their last Group One tie with Peru which they won 5-1, were getting ready to face the much-touted Belgians who had headed Group Three, having beaten Argentina in the preliminaries. Pete, who was covering the championship for Mexican TV, had predicted that the Belgians could well prove to be giant killers.

But that was not to be. Poland began strongly and kept the tempo through the entire match, giving the Belgians no chance of making a fight of it. And yet they won their goals basically from counter attacks. The secret of their success lay in the speed with which Lato and company took the ball to the opposite camp. The most interesting aspect of the match was that the midfield was a no man's land. Both teams had their share of control, but it was the Poles who derived benefits from it.

But if one person were to be singled out for this success, it would be Zbigniew Boniek, red-haired, athletic and moody. Set to join Juventus of Italy after the World Cup, this brilliant forward scored a hat-trick to lead the goal hunters' list of this championship. Coming close on his heels for individual recognition was the veteran Lato who at 32 was one of just two players in the squad from the one which finished third in the 1974 World Cup. They ripped through the Belgian defence and caused goalkeeper Custis a lot of problems.

But it was Boniek who was in the limelight. In the fourth minute of

WORLD CUP



MATCH OF THE WEEK

THE RCD Espanol, of the Sarria Stadium in this fun loving city will probably never be the same. In a dramatic reversal of form, unfancied Italy very comprehensively beat World Champions Argentina 2-1 to collect two points in Group C of the second round World Cup competition.

The match served a perfect example of Italian defensive tactics as they held off all Argentine attacks with sometimes as many as seven men in the penalty area. They relied almost exclusively on counter attack to pressurise the Argentine in defence.

By seeing the exhibition of deplorable professionalism in the first session, one had doubts whether the match would end at all. After Italy had made a few tentative forays into the Argentine territory, the game gradually got bogged down in foul play.

Pushing kicking and throwing formed the order of the day as five minutes before the yellow card with the first session. They were Paolo Rossi and Claudio Gentile of Italy and Mario Kempes, Diego Maradona and Osvaldo Ardiles of Argentina.

Interestingly, three of these were foul play with the referee's attention directed to free kicks awarded in this half and at least another ten undetected foul.

The Italians were generally the aggressors, especially Gentile who stuck like a leech to Maradona, the danger man of Argentina. He was largely successful as the so-called best footballer in the world did not get through more than twice in the entire half. Even on those occasions, he could not find his touch.

On the other hand, Italy came very near to scoring when Antognoni's free kick from 25 yards grazed the crosspiece before sailing out. Diaz was the only Argentinian who came near to putting his team ahead when his shot was tipped over by the 40-year-old Italian goalkeeper and captain Dino Zoff.

The 33,000 capacity stadium came to life in the second session—after booing the teams off at the end of the first—when, in the fourth minute, Graziani got the ball in the open, but his first-timer was wide. The Italians continued to maintain pressure and, in the eighth, Tardelli sent a rasping shot from 40 yards out which was tipped over by the Argentine goalkeeper.

Three minutes later came the first of the Italian goals. It was a combined move which ended when Tardelli came from the left into the penalty area and sent a stiff angular grounder which saw the back of the net (1-0).

Almost immediately thereafter Argentina

made two simultaneous substitutions—Kempes and Diaz going off for Valencia and Calderon. In the 20th minute, Maradona came near levelling when his free kick beat Zoff but struck the post.



Paolo Rossi

Then, in the 23rd minute, Italy struck again. Paolo Rossi found himself with an easy chance as the ball floated to him in the clear and all he had to do was flick it past a helpless goalkeeper. But, instead of chipping the ball, he tried to slam it in hard. The ball came off the custodian and this time Rossi passed to an unmarked Cabrini. Even as the goalkeeper was scrambling back into position, Cabrini hit hard and high to find the top of the net to make it 2-0.

As the Italians were tiring and with Rossi still not in position to continue for

90 minutes because he has played only six matches after his two year suspension, the manager Enzo Bearzot brought him and Orsini off and put in Marini and Altobelli in their places.

With just nine minutes to go, Passarella got a free kick to curl into the goal from about 20 yards out to make it 2-1. That brought some life back into the game, especially for the Spanish Argentinian fans in the Sarria. But, despite some brave efforts, they failed to earn a draw. In fact, worse was in store. Gallego, who is a tough Argentinian, fouled Tardelli off the ball. The referee promptly showed him the yellow card which meant the in the event of Brazil beating Argentina, this was his last appearance in the twelfth World Cup competition.

The last few minutes of the match were left for Argentina to bring nine men into the attack and thereby nearly conceding a third goal when Conti missed the easiest chance of the match as he raced into the penalty area alone, but could not chip the ball over the advancing goalkeeper's head.

But this result should not be taken as an upset—apart from the fact that Argentina were the last champions. In their last seven outings before this meeting, Italy had lost only one match to Argentina.

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play, Lato brushed past deep defender Millecamps and, from the edge of the playing area, sent a sharp shot back. The advancing Boniek sent a bullet of a shot on the run which found the roof of the net.

Two chances were wasted thereafter—one by each side, the offenders being Ceulemans for Belgium and Kuprewicz for Poland—and it was not until the 26th minute that Poland struck again. Deep defender Zmuda got one to Buncol, who cut out Renquin, substituting for the injured Gerets of Belgium and found Boniek, who gracefully headed over the uncertain goalkeeper to see the ball floating into the goal.

The third goal, which came nine minutes after half-time, was again created by Lato. Receiving the ball near the penalty area, he swivelled on his feet and then raced through to find an unguarded Boniek. The latter side-stepped the advancing goalkeeper and pushed into an empty goal.

This victory gave the Poles an excellent chance of up, having to measure up to the individual play of the Soviet Union to get through to the semi-finals.

AUSTRIA vs FRANCE

FOOTBALL pundits, after studying the preliminary group matches, were almost certain that Austria would go through to the semi-finals from Group D. France had looked a lack-lustre side without motivation when they barely made it to the second round after being defeated by England and held by Czechoslovakia. Austria had started out well, although they, too, were extremely lucky in making it to the second round at the expense of Algeria. It was only an obviously arranged match with West Germany, which the latter won 1-0—just enough to see Austria through on goal difference—that allowed them through.

The Madrid encounter, however, saw France back in their usually graceful game, with a lot of individual flair. The French began with out their mainspring, Michel Platini. This might have come as a blessing, because it allowed the other players—constantly under his dictates—to play their natural game.

And in this they succeeded as they took control of the game from the beginning and should have won by a far higher margin than the 1-0 end result. If they had taken their chances, they could well have done so. But the three-man attack, comprising Soler, Lacombe (who was replaced by Richeteau in the 15th minute) and Didier Six failed to complete the jobs begun in midfield by Genghini, Girard, who came in Guesse's place late in the first half and Tigana. In fact, it was Tigana who was the real surprise. He is a



Zbigniew Boniek of Poland



Horst Hrubesch of West Germany

slightly built player, but his swift turns and accurate through passes were a constant source of worry for the Austrians.

The match winner came in the 39th minute through a free kick taken by Genghini. Three minutes earlier, he had beaten Austrian custodian Koncilia with a 25 yard shot, but the ball rebounded off the crosspiece. This time, he made no mistake, swerving the ball past the wall of defenders and finding the top corner of the net.

For Austria, this was a disappointing match, for which they had only themselves to blame. They did not seem to get going—a predicament that seemed to have afflicted them from the time they met the Germans who beat them 1-0 in a very drab encounter—the last in Group Two. Their mainspring Hans Krankl, did not do anything up front to disturb the French defence, which has never been too strong. In fact, the most glaring defect of the French backs had been their inability to cope well with floated passes in the penalty area. The Austrians never exploited this, thus putting themselves in the unhappy position of having to beat Northern Ireland and then hoping that the latter would take care of the French.

Man of the week

The twelfth World Cup has been a disaster for some of the biggest names in soccer, while there have been others who have been treated slightly better by fate. Perhaps, the biggest failure has been Diego Maradona of Argentina, rated the world's best. But there have been some who have, despite this very real danger to forwards in this international competition, succeeded. This was no other than Karl Heinz Rummenigge who did not have an outstanding competition, but certainly displayed his class in some matches. But there were others—very, very few, like Bal of the Soviet Union—who introduced themselves to international audiences with a promise of better things to come. The name that first comes to mind in this sphere is that of Terry Butcher, wearing the by now familiar number four shirt. Representing a side that, on the strength of its own performance, should not have been playing in Spain, Butcher and his team have been improving with every outing, bar one, until the second stage, where everything depended on the last Group B encounter with Spain to determine whether England or Germany would reach the

semi-final and meet France.

According to Jack Charlton, the ablest person to judge the capabilities of a centre-half, since he adorned that position with great distinction when England won the World Cup in 1966, Butcher is the ablest person in that position.

"I see him getting better with every game he plays for England. At this standard of football, a centre-half does not want to be dashing about all over the place.

"It is about watching opponents and waiting and seeing things happen. It takes a bit of getting used to, but he seems to be grasping it very quickly."

Butcher is a former Grammar School boy from Lowestoft. His domestic football career is now concentrated on Ipswich Town, where he is very highly rated. The 23-year-old is a lanky six feet two plus and comes on to the field in an easy, loping stride that could easily be mistaken for laziness. But once a match starts, he is all brains and legs—covering every possible angle of attack and quick to put his own men through.

Butcher's soft appearance is only for his off-field activities. Once a match starts, he is a

tough, sometimes ruthless defender who will stretch every sinew to stretch of the opposition forward. Not averse to tackles of all kinds—both legitimate and otherwise—Butcher has already marked himself out as a player England would do well to keep as a regular in its squad for a decade from now.

Talking about his experiences in Spain, Butcher says, "I am just savouring the whole atmosphere of the World Cup. Not just the football, but the country, the travelling, the business of being together with the team and learning more and more about international football."

Being a regular in the squad, he naturally begins with the first match. "It doesn't seem five minutes since I came in against Scotland, but since then I seem to have learned so much more about the game. At this level I have discovered that it is as important to be as fit mentally as physically."

He has also understood that it is vital to strike up an understanding with the rest of the squad, particularly the people in the same line. "I had hardly played with Phil Thomson until we came away (to Spain), but the understanding we have

reached has been a bonus."

Butcher was one of the very few players who caught the eye in that dreary match England had with the ultra-defensive West Germany in the second phase of the championship. In fact, on the rare occasions when the Germans ventured into attack, it was the combination of Phil Thompson and Terry Butcher that saw them snuffed out. Except, of course, three minutes from the end when Rummenigge sent that rasping shot to the cross piece.

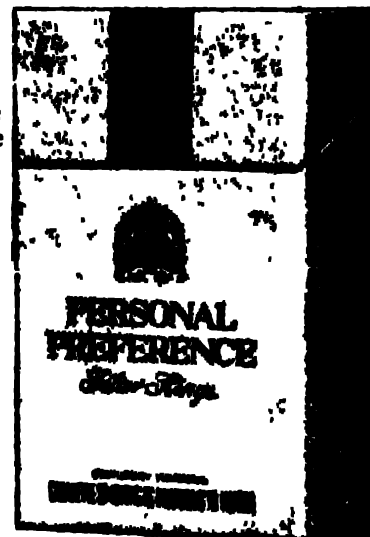
But Butcher was calm throughout—and brutally efficient. He marked himself out as a positive centre-half, who knows when to be where and how to deal with aggression. While his cool is an asset to any side, it is his deft touch and tackle that makes him an exciting prospect in the years to come.

In Spain, Butcher's practice sessions were a treat to watch. He runs in as a goalkeeper—to sharpen his reflexes as well as his muscles.



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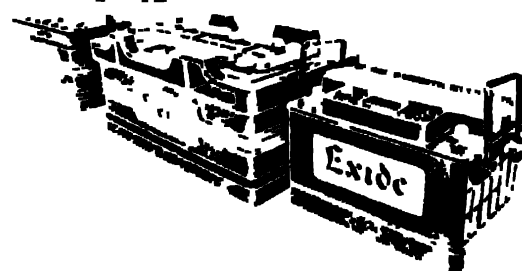
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WORLD CUP *Action Photographs*

(Clockwise from top right) Algerian forward Salah Assad (left) scores his second goal for his team past two Chilean defenders, Honduras Porfirio Betancourt dribbles past three North Ireland players to launch an attack, England's Steve Coppell (centre) is robbed of the ball by Kuwait's Mahboud Jomah (3) and Al Houti (on ground)



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PROFILES

THE team that shattered England's pride at having an unbeaten home record against foreign opposition in the Fifties was Hungary and the man who remained most memorable in that feat was Ferenc Puskas, one of the greatest players world soccer has ever seen. That was a period when the soccer sky of Hungary was illuminated by a galaxy of superstars. Hidegkuti was there, the master player known for his incredible finesse, then that marvel of a header, Kocsis and so many other talented marauders who made the Hungarians a force to reckon with on the stage of international football. But of them all, the most eye-catching was this son of a mediocre soccer player of Kispest, who was born with the makings of a great footballer and sharpened his innate skills to an unbelievable height of excellence through tremendous hard work during his chequered footballing career.

After barefoot days of street soccer, Puskas made his league debut for Kispest at the age of 16. Before that he played for the national side at

the youth level and made his mark as an up-and-coming national footballer. Now Puskas set about the task of polishing his skills further to eliminate the shortcomings that still plagued his game to a certain extent.



Puskas' international debut came at the age of 17. The match was against Austria and the Dutch team was star-studded with such seasoned footballers as the

Ujpest pair, Szusza, Szengeller and many other experienced internationals in their peak form.

Yet, Puskas outshone all the others, putting up a spectacular display of his skills. Hungary won the match 5-2, marking the beginning of an 11 year long international career for Puskas.

After the Second World War, the Hungarian FA set about reorganising the club set up to revamp the game in the country. Now Kispest became the official Army club and came to be known as Honved. In addition, with a view to forming an exceptionally strong team, some of the top ranking players of the country were taken into the club. But what was so significant about it all was that the whole development proved to Puskas' advantage. As Honved became synonymous with the cream of Hungarian football, Puskas got the long-awaited opportunity of playing along with the best footballers of his time, like goalkeeper Grosics,

winghalf Boszik, forward Kocsis and Czibor, all legendary figures in the history of the game.

The results were immediate. Puskas' skills improved noticeably. And thus the 'Galloping Major' was now poised for some astounding feats.

In 84 internationals Puskas scored as many as 84 goals, a really mind boggling average. But the more peculiar thing was that he got most of these goals with his left foot.

And just as surprising was the reason for which he was led to develop such a habit, depending too much on his left leg. As he himself used to say, his father could only afford one pair of shoes between him and his brother. The right one was meant for him and he never dared to kick a ball with it lest it should get damaged which meant no more shoes.

But that one leg was enough. Puskas became such a prolific scorer that it was nearly impossible to keep track of his goals. He was tremendously proud of it. When Pele was once described as the only man to score 1000 goals, Puskas quipped: "I get at least 1,500, but who's counting?"



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Man of the week

WORLD CUP

**Paul Mariner of England (centre)
locked in an aerial tussle with some
French players**

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RECORDS

Brazil's distinction

BRAZIL is the only nation to have entered the final stages of the World Cup on all twelve occasions. On the other hand, at the 1978 World Cup, Iran and Tunisia made their debut in the final stages, thereby becoming the 46th and 47th nation to do so.

Four goals each

THE record individual tally of goals in a World Cup final is four goals, a feat which has been achieved by no less than eight players. They are Gustav Wetter from Sweden, Leônidas da Silva, Brazil; Ernest Williamowski, Poland; Ademir, Brazil; Hugo Scerif from Uruguay; Sanford Kravitz, Hungary; Josef Smeyers, Belgium; and only Geoff Hurst of England.

Three extra-time finals

SEVEN of the 17 World Cup finals have had to go into extra time. The first was the 1930 final between Uruguay and Argentina, which was decided by a 4-2 victory for the South Americans. The last was the 1970 final between Brazil and Italy, which was decided by a 4-1 victory for the Brazilians.



Geoff Hurst heads in a cross to score the only goal of the infamous England-Czech quarter in 1966.

4-2, and finally in 1978 at Buenos Aires, Argentina surpassed Holland 3-1.

Best defensive record

ENGLAND with the amazing Gordon Banks in goal, emerged triumphant in the 1966 World Cup, but that was not their sole claim to fame. They emerged with the best defensive record as well, having conceded only three goals in six matches.

New substitution rule

SUBSTITUTION was allowed for the first time during the Mexico World Cup, when a rule was introduced to the effect that any two players could be

placed from either side at any juncture in the game. This put paid to the old rule that only injured players could be replaced. Under the new ruling, the German Grabowski was the first ever substitute and had the added distinction of creating the winning goal against Morocco.

Hurst's feat

ENGLAND'S Geoff Hurst is the only player

in World Cup history to have recorded three goals in a World Cup final. He performed his feat in the 1966 final and was chiefly instrumental in his side's amazing victory over West Germany.

Record attendance

THE world record attendance for a soccer match is 199,850 for the World Cup final featuring Brazil versus Uruguay at Rio de Janeiro in 1950.

For keeps

THE Jules Rimet Trophy, won by the Brazilian three, went permanently to them after they beat twice World Cup winners Italy in the 1970 final. A new World Cup was introduced from 1974.

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Another West German folk hero

FRANZ BECKENBAUER had to wait a long time before he became a star, much longer than Toni Schumacher. Beckenbauer was not so easy to grasp. Nor had he such a sunny nature.

Schumacher became the European champion in 1980 and scarcely a year passed before he was smiling from the hoardings on placards three metres high and four metres wide, curly-haired, jolly with the expression of an impudent schoolboy. The national goalkeeper, Schumacher advertises Hamburgers. Not the Hamburgers in the football team but the grilled kind that you eat. Even the smiling Schumacher said that he had liked their Hamburgers, the firm that makes them was unable to keep pace with the demand. A new man had emerged in business.

In past years, the Germans have been hard put to it to find a star. Following Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Müller, Gerd Müller and Sepp

Maier no more appeared on the scene. Low tide. Then came Hansi Müller. But he was too handsome and sleek. Then Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the good-natured fair head. And right after him was the cantankerous Paul Breitner, the Beard. But none of them could arouse total euphoria among the fans. So there was a gap in the market and Schumacher was exactly what the people liked to see in a star player.

He even has that in writing. Pal Berkovic, a Hungarian who acts as agent for actors, artistes and other prominent personalities in connection with advertising, asked 3,000 people who had the most advertising "pull". The answer: Toni Schumacher. Berkovic gave Schumacher a testimonial that is worth its weight in gold. It states that Schumacher is the sportsman possessing the widest appeal to ordinary people. He has a sense of humour, youthful vitality

and disarming frankness. He is admired because of his performance, determination and discipline. He merits confidence and is regarded as an example to others, loved by fathers as well as mothers. Identification with him is easy.

It sounds staggering. Yet Schumacher's public appeal is easy to reduce to its essentials. To two qualities which seem to everyone, especially these days, to be admirable and worth striving for. Schumacher is optimistic and is very frank.

"We will be world champions," he says and everyone knows what he means by that. Naturally something can happen to prevent it. "We are flying out to Spain in a cheerful mood and you at home can rely on us. That's how it is meant. And everyone's happy about it. For optimism is what we lack and we are grateful to everyone who gives us a bit of it."

Toni Schumacher



"Young players in the Federal league have no consideration for themselves or their opponents. All they think of is the big money and making a career and they are spurred on by their trainers," says Schumacher. No one else dares to be quite so frank.

"The referees are bad. They have no idea because most of them have never played football. Referees should also be professionals," says Schumacher.

People are amused by such remarks and enjoy them. That's what makes Schumacher a star. He is now earning almost half a million Deutsch Marks a year through advertising and nearly another half million through football. For 1 FC Cologne it is a bargain and for the firms he advertises too. He is sending the stock of all of them up.

Schumacher admittedly has a good nose for the nuances in the human psyche. The story of his first name shows that. Actually it is not Toni but Harald. But years ago Cologne had a goalkeeper named Schumacher, Toni Schumacher who performed such remarkable deeds in a European Cup match at Liverpool that he was christened the "Hero of Liverpool."

What could Schumacher II do, when he became the goalkeeper for Cologne in 1972? Day after day, match after match he played against his predecessor? Day after day he would say "I'm not called Toni, I'm called Harald." In the end he would have been a nobody, no longer Harald and not a hope of being Toni.

He must have felt there was only one possibility and that was to become Toni in order to survive. And that's what he did. He is only named Harald in his passport. And what was left of the mantle of the "Hero of Liverpool" fell on his shoulders. To him, that could only be another hero.

And that's what happened. Toni Schumacher, with amazing knock knees, one of them incurably damaged and a figure that has nothing athletic about it, became the best goalkeeper of the Federal league and Europe.

But a lot of dirty water had to flow down the Rhine before Federal trainer Derwall came to the conclusion that the "happiness" of the Rheinlander concealed a serious person. "I am not one of those who wants to sit out his career on the bench. I want to get in goal", said Schumacher and he meant the national team.

Three weeks later he stood in the goalmouth. That was on May 13, 1980 and since that day he is the one the reserves have to go to with their baton in their hands to ask if he will let them play a half. For Cologne's keeper Toni Schumacher is determined to become world champion in Spain.



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (white) full of tricks, skilful in ball play and a powerful shooter

The history of soccer

ALTHOUGH the first set of soccer rules was drawn up in Britain in the nineteenth century, there is mention of the game's existence—albeit informal—in some interesting corners of the world.

The earliest evidence, without doubt, comes from China, where a game called *tsu chu* finds mention in records dating back to two centuries prior to the birth of Christ. The word *tsu* means to kick, while *chu* means a ball and this game was pursued keenly by Chinese soldiers who used goals made of bamboo poles and netting. Those who performed well were rewarded with promotions and predictably enough, losers were sometimes punished, although the records do not go into details on this score.

The Japanese also played a similar game and by the turn of the seventh century, it had developed into *kemari*, a game played on an actual pitch. Each corner of the pitch was marked out with a tree—a pine, cherry, maple and, of course, a willow. As a matter of fact, one cannot help but wonder if China and Japan actually played against each other before the birth of Christ.

The ancient Greeks and Romans also had their equivalent of the game. The Greeks called it *episkuros* and the Romans referred to it as *harpastum*. In fact, these games bore greater resemblance to rugby or American football and opposing sides employed almost any tactics to force the ball across the other's line. Since, of course, there was no fixed set of rules as such, these games often ended in confusion, but it was all part and parcel of the sport.

The citizens of Florence have also advanced their claims to the beginnings of the game. A sport called *calcio* enjoyed great popularity in the sixteenth century and was a constant source of entertainment in the Piazza della Croce, where throngs of people would gather and cheer their respective heroes. But this was a game with a difference: for no less than 27 men made up a single side and each one of them was dressed in period costume. Indeed, the game is still played even today,

although the sole purpose is to attract tourists.

England hosts a more or less similar event at Ashbourne in Derbyshire where every year the town people play a game, using the gates of the splendid Ashbourne Hall and the gates of the local Church as the two goals. These games were extremely popular in Britain a few centuries ago and it was in Derbyshire that they aroused the strongest passions. It was from this that we get the frequently used expression "local Derby" which indicates a contest between two teams from the same town or from neighbouring towns.

could be anything from an existing structure to two sticks planted in the ground. Wounds were commonplace and it often happened that bystanders—who had nothing at all to do with the game—sustained injuries.

This game was referred to as "mob football" and not surprisingly, was frequently banned by law.

Businessmen of the City of London brought pressure on King Edward II to try and stop the game—if indeed it could be called a game. In 1314, an Act prescribed imprisonment for anybody who played football in London. That was really a far cry from 1966, when millions of English soccer fans rejoiced over their country's



A Blackburn Rovers forward heads home in the FA Cup Final against Notts County in 1891

Shrove Tuesday football was another great tradition in many parts of England. True to form, these games were more a festive occasion than anything else: where anybody could take part and where games sometimes ended with more than a hundred people on either side. It did not really matter who won or lost, for the spirit of the game was the most important thing. There was no bar on tactics of any sort and the game only ended when one side forced the ball through the opposing "goal", which

triumph in the World Cup following the strict example set by Edward II were Edward III, Richard II and Henry IV who viewed the popularity of football as threat to their own national defence. The reason? Their archers were playing the game when they should have been devoting their time to polishing up their archery skills. In neighbouring Scotland James I threatened footballers with imprisonment.

By the sixteenth century, there was still an element of barbarism in



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the game. In the words of Sir Thomas Elyot, football gave no pleasure to decent men, being "but beastlike furie and violence". A more charitable description came from Philip Stubbes in "Anatomie of Abuses", for he said it was a more "friendly kinde of fighte" than a game. He also described the use of fists and elbows to the ribs and other "murthuring devices".

In 1572, Queen Elizabeth was still trying to eradicate the game of football—at least as far as the streets of

themselves began to draw up and enforce sets of rules to make it more a game than a battle. However, the inevitable occurred since the game was being played in so many different parts of the country, a different set of rules prevailed in each area. Thus, what was permissible in one part of the country was frowned upon in another. But the game was undergoing a transformation.

In Britain, there were two distinct games that developed out of it. Soccer and rugby finally went their own

football was being played at most of the popular public schools and universities. Here again, different sets of rules and regulations prevailed. Each school played the game on the most suitable ground available and thus adopted their own rules, largely to suit their own purposes.

Thereby, football at Charterhouse was played on the stones of the cloisters, with no less than 20 players a side. Winchester and Westminster played along the same lines, but there were no goals at Winchester and the ball had to be kicked over the lines that marked the extremities of the playing area in order to register a goal.

The game at Harrow, however, looked more like modern soccer, as it included eleven players a side.

To a group of keen students at Cambridge University went the distinction of making the first positive step towards the formation of modern soccer. At a historic meeting in 1848, they sat down to draft the first set of formal rules. History records that it was a lengthy session, but in view of the gravity of the situation, this was quite understandable.

According to the new set of rules, it was permitted to use one's hands to trap the ball, but most important, the tougher elements of the game were eliminated completely and the offside rule came into existence. The new game's popularity began to spread and the first soccer club was formed in Sheffield in the 1850's, adhering largely to the Cambridge rules.

The next event that helped put soccer on the path to eminence came on October 26, 1863, when representatives of eleven London schools met at the Freemason's Tavern in Holborn to form the Football Association. A vote was taken with regard to the formal rules and the Cambridge resolutions were mostly followed.

These laws did not enjoy universal acceptance, but they were amended rapidly. The influence of the Sheffield clubs who joined the Football Association in 1867, led to handling of the ball being abolished altogether and to the introduction of the crossbar in 1875. Prior to the introduction of this rule from 1866, a tape had been



England playing Scotland at The Oval in 1878

London were concerned—but to no avail. According to Samuel Pepys, when the Thames was frozen over in the winter of 1654-55 "people played at ve fouteballe on ve Thames by great numbers".

Yet the trend was on the decline in the eighteenth century. Fewer people played it and even less people showed an interest in it. However, it maintained just enough momentum to survive the turn of the century and by then incidents of violence were few and far between. It was around this time that players them-

separate ways in 1823. That was the year William Webb Ellis made history of sorts by running with the ball in his hands at Rugby School. According to the Rugby School conventions, handling the ball was permissible, but one was not allowed under any circumstances to run with it. Ellis' deviation was viewed as an improvement and a new set of rules was drawn up for the game that was ultimately called rugby, which involved carrying the ball while running.

In the early nineteenth century,

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stretched across the goalposts, a system that was unreliable to say the very least

Many of the characteristics of the game which are now so much a part and parcel of our lives were actually innovations in the 1860's and 1870's and for many of them the Sheffield clubs were largely responsible. The role of the goalkeeper, for instance, became clearly defined for the first time in 1870. Furthermore, an offside rule was formally established in 1867 and further modified in 1886. Goal kicks and corner kicks were written into the rules and umpires, one on either side, were introduced in 1874. The umpires ruled the game, but the arbitrator was the referee and flags were used to convey all decisions. Referees were only given whistles as late as 1878 and they were not given complete control until 1891 when the umpires became linesmen.

THE first individual to make an impact on the game was Charles W. Alcock, himself a leading player who became secretary of the Football Association in 1870. He soon realised that the only way the game could take root and flourish, thereby gaining a mass base, was if the Association gained control over all clubs. Accordingly, he set about canvassing with the northern teams and was farsighted enough to realise that formal competitions rather than friendly matches would serve the purpose.

Another step forward was a representative match the same year between England and Scotland at the Kennington Oval. The Scottish team, incidentally, was composed of Scots men who were settled in England. The latter won 1-0 and a series of return matches followed.

But Alcock's best idea involved the proposal for a Cup competition. The initial response was inspiring and a trophy was soon acquired at a cost of £20. A total of 15 teams competed for the honour, among them being Queen's Park, a club that had been founded in Glasgow in 1867 and one that was later to have a profound influence on the game in Scotland and England as well. Queen's Park were by far the strongest side going

and they were instrumental in organising the Scottish sides of the early official international matches. They jumped at Alcock's proposal regarding a Cup competition and generously donated a guinea towards buying the trophy.

Thus in the first ever FA Cup competition Queen's Park went up to the semi-final. The story of how they did so might seem rather strange but it is true. They did not play a single game on the way to the semi-final stage! They received a bye into the first round but their second round opponents scratched. Queen's Park played Wanderers at The Oval

was M. P. Bretts, who for some strange reason, played the game under the name A. H. Chequers. The reason, one gathers, was probably to associate his club, Harrow Chequers, who had withdrawn in the first round, with the first Cup competition. This whim certainly cost him recognition, for most soccer histories record the goalscorer as being one A. H. Chequers.

Charles Alcock also played the game, as captain of the Wanderers side and was soon acclaimed as one of the greatest players of the era. Another footballer who made a name



Football being played at Rugby School in 1870

in the semi-final but the game ended in a goalless draw. The former were required to travel to London for the replay but found that they did not have the necessary funds and so withdrew from the tournament. The disappointment of fans and players alike, who had looked forward to some fine soccer.

Wanderers therefore reached the final (a rather mundane achievement since they had played only one game to get there) and defeated the favourites, Royal Engineers 1-0. The person who scored that historic goal

for himself was the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, who was later to become Lord Kinnaird and the High Commissioner for the Church of Scotland. A third outstanding player was Major Sir Francis Marindin, who led the Royal Engineers, the strongest side of that time. Marindin, who was as good a leader as he was a player, figured in two finals and refereed eight others.

But the record for Cup Final appearances went to Kinnaird, who played no less than nine—three for Wanderers and six for the Old 11 to

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nians Both Marindin and Kinnaird went on to become presidents of the Football Association and the latter was actually awarded the FA Cup in 1911 for his services to the game

This was actually the second trophy, as the first was stolen in 1895 from a bootmaker's window where it was being proudly displayed by the holders, Aston Villa. The third Cup is the present one, so Kinnaird and a thief were the only people to possess an FA Cup of their own

In the year 1872, Kinnaird and Alcock put the first international match in the record books when they arranged a game between England and Scotland—this time a truly representative match. The encounter took place in Partick on November 30 and ended in a 0-0 draw—a result that was never to be repeated there after

With Cup competitions and internationals in full swing in England and Scotland it only remained for the concept of league football to be drawn up, thereby completing the competitive structure of the game as it exists today. This came about in 1888 and was the inspiration of a Scot, William McGregor who was a director of Aston Villa. He contacted a number of other clubs and suggested a competition involving around 10 or 12 sides, the clubs to play each other both at home and away

At two separate meetings in hotels in Manchester and London, the first five clubs agreed to invite seven others to join them and thus was the Football League formed. The first matches took place in September 1888 and the twelve clubs were Accrington, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, North County, Preston North End, Stoke, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton. Of these only Accrington has since dropped out of the League while the other sides are all major names in the history of English soccer. The inaugural championship was won by Preston North End who did not drop a single match throughout

The pattern of the game was by now firmly established and at around the same time it became proper to refer to it as "soccer" while rugby football had come to be known as "rugger"

Actually, the story of how the word "soccer" came into being makes interesting reading. The two games were actually referred to as rugby and association football. Towards the end of the 1880's, Charles Wretford Brown was asked by a friend at Oxford University if he would care for a game of rugger, but he replied that he would prefer "soccer", an instant corruption of the word "association" and the name appealed to popular fancy and stuck

Professionalism was not legalised in Britain until 1885 and the great teams and players of the early years of organised soccer were actually the old boys of the public school teams. Wanderers, whose five FA Cup wins came from the first seven years of the competition, included old Harrow School players, among them Charles Alcock and Lord Kinnaird

Oxford University, Old Romans and Old Carthusians also won the Cup in the first decade and Major Marindin, who led the Army team, Royal Engineers, was himself an Old Etonian. By the 1870's, Scottish players had started the long trek to the rich Lancashire towns, hopeful of finding places in local teams and also the pay packets that went along with being a team member. Indeed, many of the Scottish players of the time were tactically more advanced and superior to their English counterparts and so it was only natural that the English clubs were more than willing to pay for their services

In 1876 one James Lang came from Glasgow to join Sheffield Wednesday, the famous Yorkshire Club, and he is generally acknowledged by most soccer historians as the first professional. It was at around this time that the balance of power began to shift, slowly but surely, to the North. Darwen came close to reaching the Cup Final of 1879, albeit with the help of professionals who were very much a part of the game by this time—and Blackburn Olympic won in 1883

The Cup thereafter was dominated largely by teams from the North and the Midlands until 1901 and then again until 1921, but it is noted that the Football Association did not approve of the trend, especially since some of the Northern teams consisted entirely of paid Scotsmen

In 1883 came the crisis. That was

the year Accrington were banned from the Cup for paying a player. But that was not the end of the story. The following year there was a protest against mighty Preston over a similar complaint. Preston were disqualified and Major Sudell threatened to form a rival association and was of course supported in his stand by many of the Northern clubs. The Football Association had no other alternative but to legalise professionalism, although in those days, payment was meant to be compensation for lost wages. In 1885 the FA began a register of professionals which still exists. To begin with professionals had to qualify for their club by birth or by two years' residence within six miles of the ground. Later, when professionals wanted to move from one club to another, the new club had to buy the registration of the player from his previous club and transfer fees thus came into being

The Football Association frowned on the buying and selling of players just as they did not approve of professionalism. Indeed the first £1,000 transfer, of Alf Common from Sunderland to Middlesbrough in 1905 was investigated by the FA Commission. In 1908 a law was passed limiting transfer fees to £750

As the game progressed and interest bloomed the folk heroes began to emerge. Preston North End won the first League Championship without losing a match and the Cup without conceding a goal and the team was instantly nicknamed "The Old Invincibles". Till today the club is referred to as Proud Preston. Sunderland won the title three times in four years thereby earning themselves a label which is still remembered "The Team of All the Talents"

The immense popularity of soccer was emphasised when the FA Cup Final was held for the first time at the new Wembley Stadium in 1923. Wembley's capacity was 127,000 and was thought to be more than adequate, but as the Bolton Wanderers won the first of their three 1920's Cups with a 2-0 win over West Ham United no less than 200,000 people forced their way in and the pitch at kick-off time was a swarm with crowds

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It's all in the mind

That is how SHEKHAR MEHTA, the five-time winner of the toughest rally in the world, the Kenyan Safari, looks upon life on the circuit.

HARESH MUNWANI met him in Bombay recently

SHEKHAR MEHTA, the man who has won the gruelling Kenyan Safari car rally for the last four years in succession—and five times in all—does not look a bit like a car rally driver. Bespectacled, and blessed with a waistline that would do credit to a prosperous businessman, Mehta, by winning the Kenyan Safari, considered the toughest event on the rally circuit, has proved that in the final analysis it's all in the mind.

The 37-year old Mehta, was in Bombay en route to Auckland where he would participate in a rally. He had just finished the rally in Greece and summed it up aptly when he remarked "By the time I reach New Zealand after being airborne for 48 hours, there will be no time to overcome the jetlag. As the saying goes, we will hit the road the moment we are grounded."

Talking about his experiences in the 1980 Himalayan Rally, which Shekhar incidentally won, he said, "The rally route between Bombay and Delhi was densely populated and dangerous. All that stone throwing was not pleasant, but the fact remains that the Bombay-Delhi section was logistically complicated. Normally rally drivers change their wheels, say every 300km and consequently you need your service truck at these points. But there was no alternative or service road by which these trucks could reach those points. The rally route was just one straight road. Another minus point was that the rally itself was too long. I believe something in the region of 5000 km. This is ridiculous. Most rally events are held over a distance of 2500 to 3000 km. I have told the Indian officials that if they didn't eliminate the Bombay-Delhi section and clip the total distance, not many international drivers would be inclined to come here. At least I won't."

Explaining the reason for which he participated in the Indian event, Mehta revealed, "Opel the German car manufacturers approached me and asked me if I would like to drive their car. I agreed. Opel wanted to participate because the rally was going to be covered in a big way on German television. Had Opel not approached me, I would have been a non starter. As for the Indian orga-

nisation, I think in certain sections it was rather weak. They tried to do so much so quickly. With relative inexperience they had taken on something more than they could handle."

What are the factors he considers before deciding to enter a rally? Mehta replied, "Basically I have a contract, with Datsun. Though it is a flexible contract, they tell me where they would like me to participate. On my own I would rather enter an event which I enjoy. A rally where the scenery is good, people are friendly and the food is good. New

Every year, the international body designates 12 events for the world champion of drivers and 10 events for the world champion of car manufacturers. On an average a rally can last three to five days. Every year Shekhar enters six events and this means that he spends 20 weeks in a year on the road.

If Shekhar can help it he prefers reaching the rally site 12 days before the actual event begins. He uses this time to do practice runs on the rally route. "There are so many details that you have got to check out. You



Receiving the trophy from Mrs Gandhi after winning the 1980 Himalayan Rally

Zealand, Greece, Brazil, Kenya are fine examples. I also enjoy the July rally in Argentina which has a beautiful countryside, but unfortunately this year it has been cancelled. The RAC rally in England is one event I always miss because it is held in November and it's cold, damp and foggy. It puts me off. Of course I generally select a long distance rally, say over 2000km because I drive the Datsun which is a very reliable car over long routes. It's very fast, but at the same time it rarely fails."

are using heavy wheels, special suspensions. It's good to get acclimatized to it. You have to go over the terrain you are going to encounter so that you can spell out your requirements. A driver can use seven different kinds of tyres on the route depending on factors like the terrain, the weather. A driver has also got to decide where he would like his service trucks to be positioned. It's hard work—this job of testing and practice. If you do well in a rally you have the satisfaction that you could

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perform better only because your advance planning was correct," informs Shekhar

In 1979, Mehta married Yvonne, an English girl who doubles as his co-driver in the rally. Says Yvonne, "When I met Shekhar in Uganda I was rallying more than he." Does one see a lot of women drivers on the circuit and how do they perform? Shekhar replies, "There are very few women drivers, Michele Mouton, a French woman who triumphed at Greece is ranked second in the world. But I feel a lady could make a good co-driver. They have a better temperament when it comes to precision and paper work. To concentrate on details comes naturally to them. Women make better secretaries than men, don't they? As for the training it can be strenuous and tiring. But it's a question of mental attitude. One has to accept it if you want to succeed. Also it's another way of being together. Most rally drivers during a season don't see their wives for more than ten days in six months. Of course, as a driver in the rally I have the right to lose my temper and say anything. Once the event is over it's all forgotten. The only time I don't take my wife as co-driver is during the Kenyan Safari. There I prefer to have a mechanic along with me because the road is treacherous and a car can break down. At that time it's good to know that you have a specialist with you."

Analysing the reason as to why he has always done so well at the Kenyan Safari, Shekhar feels, "It is undoubtedly the toughest rally. It's the classic test, hard on the drivers and the machine. There is a bit of stone throwing but it's not organised or political. Just some token idea of fun. There have not yet been any serious injuries. It does well at the Safari which is held during the Easter



With his co-driver Drews before the start of a rally

because firstly I have a good car in Datsun next I have a feel for that place. I can read trouble before it happens much earlier than the other drivers. If a particular curve is going to be slippery, I can sense it. Maybe by the changed look of the road or texture - something rings the bell. It's difficult to put it in words. Lastly it's my home event and it's important to me. One is always determined to do well in home ground.

Shekhar was born in Kampala, Uganda. After doing his schooling in Switzerland and England, Shekhar wanted to join the family business in sugar and thus returned home. In 1972 Idi Amin threw out all Asians from Uganda and the Mehtas moved to Nairobi, Kenya. As a sport, Shekhar's interest in rallying was nothing extraordinary. He entered his first rally in 1966. Five years later, Datsun approached him to drive their car in the Safari event. Since then Mehta has been seen as a rally driver in Cyprus, Indonesia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Argentina, Greece, Italy, Brazil, New Zealand and India. In Nairobi, Mehta has a car business that assembles jeeps. In a humorous reference to his absence from his office because of his rallying activities, Shekhar quips, "That's because my staff insist that they can do a better job when I am not around."

What kind of money does he make? Mehta refused to disclose the amount except to say "The top three drivers make something in the region of 250,000 dollars. Of course all expenses for petrol, hotels and airfare are paid for."

Mehta feels that in the final analysis, stamina is the most important quality for a rally driver. "And as long as I have the urge, the reflexes, I am going to enter. But more than anything else, I would like to win a rally in Europe simply because I have never won an event there."

Storming down the track



CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Rough weather for Big Three

After beating Mohammedan S. C. in the crucial tie there was rejoicing in the East Bengal camp. Then Mohun Bagan conceded a point to Railway F.C. But barely 24 hours later, the smiles were no longer in evidence when East Bengal, too, were held by gutsy Aikya Sammilani. Mohammedan S. C. also went through a harrowing time. **SUBHASH SARCAR, SARAJIT DEB and SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL report on the matches**

MOHUN BAGAN—What Calcutta Gymkhana had failed to achieve in the previous week, Railway Football Club did, snatching a point from the champion club of India. Incidentally, this is the third year running that a league encounter between these two teams has ended without a result. On the one hand Mohun Bagan can consider themselves unlucky because the framework denied them two goals. On the other hand, they should thank their lucky stars because the last shot of the day by Ranjit Chatterjee, the R.F.C. striker, hit the crosspiece after beating custodian Shibaji Banerjee.

In a game which was marred by rough play to a considerable degree, three players were shown the yellow card. Subrata Bhattacharya of

Mohun Bagan, Alok Majumdar and Nirmal Sengupta of R.F.C. For the loss of a valuable point, Mohun Bagan have themselves to blame. In the first half they earned a penalty when Alok handled the ball inside the box. Subrata ballooned the ball from the resultant spot kick, to the dismay of the spectators. That was the only chance Mohun Bagan were able to create in the first half.

Mohun Bagan exerted more pressure in the second half and were unlucky when a header by Surajit Sengupta struck the crosspiece. The rebound came to Shyam Thapa, who shot out from close. On another occasion, Krishanu Dev's header off a Surajit centre hit the upright. Besides these there were two goalline saves by Alok, who put up a gallant

display for his side. Just when the spectators were resigned to the fact that their favourite team would be losing a point, Ranjit Chatterjee got a free ball and darted in and took a fierce right footer which struck the crosspiece.

The Mohun Bagan side which had Gautam Sarkar and Shyam Thapa as medios failed to dominate the mid-field, where the game is built. In the defence only Krishnendu Roy was confident. Subrata seemed to lose his head after missing the penalty, and though he went up in the late stages of the match, it hardly made any difference. The normally confident Satyant Ghosh tumbled at times and twice created a dangerous situation for his side. Gauranga Banerjee, who is having a lean sea-



Players and officials of Railway F. C. plead with Mohun Bagan supporters not to throw stones

son, had another off day. In the forward line, only Krishanu and to a certain extent Surajit was somewhat effective. Coach Sankar Banerjee said "My main problem was that my two halves, Bikash Panji and Sujas Bera are on the injured list and I had to play Shyam in the midfield, which reduced the thrust in my attack."

The RFC players fought for every ball and in the second half employed three and sometimes four men in the midfield to control the vital zone. Their forwards, especially Ranjit, posed a few problems for the Bagan defence while in their own line of defence, stoppers Alok and Biswajit Bera and right back Nirmal Sett hardly gave anything away. Coach Sankar Sarkar said "Perhaps the fact that we had drawn with Mohun Bagan for the last two years was at the back of their minds. They played very scrappy football. After the first half we fell back on the defensive and we were successful. In the end, I think the man who made the difference was Bikash Panji. If he had been there, he could have utilised our weakness, because he has played with my boys and I know them thoroughly."

HAVING dropped a vital point in their previous match, the home team started their match against Customs at a brisk pace and looked like ending easy victors. But then something suddenly went wrong midway and only managed to win by a brace of goals scored by Subrata and Surajit, one in each half. Subrata shot in a rebound from his own spot kick and Surajit scored after dribbling past the goalkeeper after receiving the ball in what was palpably an offside position.

Mohun Bagan exerted pressure in the initial stages of the first half and their first goal came midway through the session. Krishanu Dev, the youth international of the side, got the ball in the midfield area and square passed to Shyam, who in turn gave a through pass to Surajit, thereby catching the entire Customs defence on the wrong foot. Surajit had only the goalkeeper in front of him and just when he was about to take the shot he was brought down inside the box. The referee pointed to the dreaded spot and Subrata went forward to take the spot kick. Usually, Subrata is a sure converter of penalties but perhaps the fact that he had ballooned one in the last encounter was on his mind when he went near the spot. He took a feeble shot which the goalkeeper had no difficulty in reaching. But the ball slipped from his grasp and Subrata pounced on it to place it in

That was all Mohun Bagan could do in the first half. Customs got a chance to restore parity when, from a free kick, Sirangshu Karmakar headed down the ball, but Ashok Chandra took a wild shot which

sailed over the bar. The Customs players, who were using the 4-3-3 formation, slowly started dictating terms in the midfield with their numerical supremacy. It was the same story after the breather, when they had more of the ball and got another chance in the eighth minute when Prasanta Mitra shot over from close.

The hardworking Krishnendu Roy, who executed some fine overlapping movements, created a good move. But Amitava took a wild shot at the near post, straight into the waiting



Bhatri defender Debahanker Ghosh leaps to clear the ball. Mohammedan S C won.

hands of the goalkeeper. Mohun Bagan's second goal came in the 13th minute of the second half. From his own territory, Shyam sent a pass to Surajit, who was standing in an offside position, by at least a yard. He had no one in front of him and Surajit ran down the middle unopposed, dribbled past the goalkeeper and pushed the ball home.

From the Mohun Bagan team Gautam Sarkar was somewhat effective for the first time in the season but the other linkman Sujas Bera, became the laughing stock of the crowd and did hardly anything right. Krishnendu was again the most enterprising player in defence while Satyajit regained some of his composure which he seemed to lack in the previous match. In the forward line, Krishanu sent some fine through passes but the others were far from effective.

EAST BENGAL: A big victory always tends to breed complacency in the victor and that was precisely what happened to the home team when they met the league bottom-rankers, Aikya Sammilani, in the very next match after their win over the giants Mohammedan Sporting.

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From the very beginning East Bengal, instead of seeking an early breakthrough and thereby keeping to the safe side, started playing a loose game. With the forwards romping all over the ground aimlessly like a disjointed lot, the Aikya defenders seldom came across any really dangerous move in the first half. Furthermore, they looked absolutely determined to prevent their superior rivals from breaking into their penalty area and the policy they pursued for this was to kick the ball away from their danger zone all the time.

And the man who played an important role in their defence was custodian Tapan Ghosh who on one occasion saved a sure goal by rushing out from the goalline at the most appropriate moment and cleared the ball in no time.

One of the main reasons for the lack of penetration in East Bengal's attacks was the fact that they continued to use Mihir Bose as the main spearhead in the offence. Of late Mihir has been in a miserable form, seldom coming anywhere near his former self. It is difficult to recall any move that was really initiated by this once unstoppable schemer-footballer of Calcutta.

On the other hand, the Aikya Sammilani, despite their limited strength seemed to be in real earnest to give East Bengal a shock.

In the second half, however, East Bengal made some sporadic attempts to gain control over the game. A few raids were made on the rival citadel, but they lacked sufficient power to cause any real damage to Aikya Sammilani.

FROM the way East Bengal has been playing since the beginning of this year's league championship, it seems that they will play well only when resistance from their opponents is almost zero. During their next match against Sonali Sibir East Bengal put up a more or less satisfactory performance to trounce their rivals 4-0. It was a one-sided affair from the very beginning, the East Bengal forwards having little trouble to make frequent inroads into the Sonali penalty area. Nevertheless, East Bengal never seemed to take things easy, probably the result of the setback they had to suffer in their previous match.

MOHAMMEDAN S.C. Although they had not got over the shock meted out by East Bengal, the dishevelled black-and-whites managed to edge out a young Bhratri Sangha side. However, the manner in which they are performing could spell danger in the ensuing engagements. Junior teams have always been a constant headache to the Big Three and against the gutsy Bhratri boys, the home players were made to sweat.

The juniors did not waste the chances that came their way. They



East Bengal's Amrity and an Aikya Sammilani player in an aerial battle

broke through on three occasions but the excellent anticipation of custodian Nasir Ahmed foiled them each time. It became obvious that, despite their talent, the Bhratri boys lacked finish.

The first fright came nine minutes after the start when striker Shankar Das took full advantage of the misunderstanding between Moidul Islam and Pem Dorji but an onrushing Ahmed foiled the move. The home side came into the game after the initial setback but Shankar Adhikari's pass was wasted by an erratic Jamshid.

Once again, Nasir Ahmed came to the rescue after Dorji miskicked and a couple of minutes later Amit Mukherjee's header off a Basudeb Banerjee centre beat the goalkeeper but hit the bar. Ahmed's third save came when he rushed out to deflect the ball from Amit Mukherjee who had beaten both the home stoppers. The best chance for Mohammedan

S.C. came five minutes before lemon time when Jamshid failed to volley a brilliant Majid centre.

A blank first half saw the home side toil even harder and surprisingly, Bhratri began to slacken. The rearguards gave a good account of themselves with Nihar Dutta coming out best for his three goalline saves. The constant pounding of the citadel left the Bhratri defenders unnerved. A goal was inevitable, despite the story of missed chances. Sure enough, it came seven minutes before the long whistle. Majid lobbed the ball in the penalty box from a freekick and Moidul Islam leapt to head in brilliantly.

PREDETERMINED matches are a common feature on the Maidan but the way the home side acted against Calcutta Gymkhana had to be seen to be believed. Undoubtedly, Mohammedan S.C. had a clear edge.

over the spirited juniors but lacked punch and were erratic whenever a chance came their way. The way the Gymkhana boys fought had everyone on tenterhooks. The home defence was never tested except for one lapse by Nasir Ahmed which was rectified in time. Within the space of nine minutes the home team missed two good opportunities. A Mani shot hit the inside edge and rebounded for Jamshid to make a feeble attempt. This was followed by a header off Mani from Somenath Banerjee going out.

The first half yielded no result, but the real drama was to begin in the interval, albeit without the knowledge of most of the players. Three Mohammedan S.C. representatives were seen going to the Gymkhana side. After the resumption, the Mohammedan S.C. players continued their struggle desperately with Majid getting the best chance from close.

Gymkhana football secretary Taj Mohammad who played the pivotal role off the field gestured to courageous goalkeeper Saroj Barua to leave the field some ten minutes prior to the final whistle. Disgusted by the constant urging Barua left the ground four minutes from time and substitute custodian Pradip Ghosh entered the field instead. Barua, for his part, could not dis-



Gymkhana custodian Saroj Barua, in a fit of anger.

guise his anger and threw away his jersey before arguing with his team officials.

The substitute goalkeeper had already shown signs of conceding a goal. He checked his pace when a shot was taken but the ball missed the net. When Mohammedan S.C. finally scored the all-important goal, there was total confusion. With as many as 18 players in the box, Majid took a free-kick and substitute Uttam Chakraborty headed the floater which hit the crosspiece but a Gymkhana defender handled the ball from inside the goal line before Pradip Ghosh could hold it and referee Haripada Das did the needful by blowing the whistle. Newsmen gathered to question the Gymkhana football secretary but both he and the club's general secretary tumbled for words. When Taj Mohammad was asked to say something about his team's performance he fumbled and asked us to come to the club. Said one of the officials "Why are you blaming us? Was that a goal?" As for the players, most of them went back with a bad taste in the mouth. The moot question is: who is destroying football in Calcutta? The junior clubs or the Big Three? One Gymkhana official said "Everyone seems to find fault with whatever the junior clubs do. Why don't you blame the big clubs? Are we destroying football or is it the big clubs?"



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Xenophobia?

CALCUTTA perhaps is the greatest confluence of soccer talent in the country. Promising and established footballers from all over the country seek inter-State transfer to come to the capital of Indian football and play for the Big Three in the famous Calcutta league.

And many a grey-haired soccer follower of the country still nurtures proud memories of some great masters of the past who came to the city from other States. There were Mewalal, Kittu, Balaran and so many others, who made the maidan what Barcelona is to Spanish soccer or Wembley to English football.

Since then, the tradition has been persisting, sometimes vigorously, sometimes dormant. The comparatively recent stars like Appalaraju and C. Prasad also treated us to many a spectacular display during their heyday. Remember that tall Eiffel Tower of a goalkeeper from the South, Thangaraj, who became one of the most popular footballers of his time?

Calcutta never bothered to find out which State he actually belonged to or what province he came from. Nor was his loyalty—or that of the others—ever questioned.

Even now players from different parts of the country are often offered huge sums of money to lend their loyalty to the three Calcutta leaders for one or two seasons. In fact, in the last two years, all three clubs seemed virtually in the grip of a craze for outstation stars.

They indulged in a sort of competition among themselves—a who-can-buy-how-many-foreign-celebrities kind of thing. The result was that a number of such players came to Calcut-

Maidan musings

ta and added to the glamour of the three outfits—Harjinder, Gurdev, Manjit, David Williams and to top them all the three Iranians, Majid, Jamshed and Khabazi. Naturally, great expectations were woven around them.

But, could all of them live up to expected heights during their tenures? No. Only a few could, but not for long. But the worst part of it all was that the failure

of these players was often attributed to lack of loyalty on their part towards their respective clubs, the cause of it all being the fact that they were outstation players.

And that precisely was the dominant feeling in the East Bengal dressing room, when the club crossed a major hurdle in the running for this year's league honours by defeating one of their major rivals, Mohamme-

dan Sporting. In the victory they found a vindication of their theory that the main reason for their poor showing over the last season was lack of sincerity among the outstation stars. This year the club has ventured into the scene with almost all the players being local. And hence the success.

Now, the question is will East Bengal be able to stick to this notion and do away totally with players from other States in future? Moreover, will that be a healthy and profitable policy to pursue?

The parallel authorities

On the Calcutta Maidan, referees are not the only persons who carry whistles. The soccer-pundits of the stands too often go to watch their favourite teams in action equipped with all the instruments of the conductors of matches—flags and whistles. Instances are not rare when players have stopped in their tracks, even at very crucial stages, having been misled by a sudden whistle from the stands.

Just as on one hand such whistling has caused considerable annoyance among players, it has given rise to many humorous situations also. Only a few days ago, before the start of a league match in which one of the three Calcutta big teams was to take on a small club, the players were observing two minutes' silence to pay their homage to a well-known personality of the city's soccer fraternity who had died.

The sound of a whistle suddenly shattered the silence. One player of the big team thought the referee had blown and started running towards the ball to do some warm-up exercises completely ignorant that all the other players were still standing in silence. The galleries burst into laughter, as expected.



That exasperating call

The no-ball law is one of the few laws undergoing changes and amendments from time to time. When underarm bowling was the order of the day about two decades ago, no-ball was declared when the bowler's back foot landed outside the bowling crease. The ball became dead and there was no penalty attached to it.

□ Around 1811, the batsman was allowed to play a no-ball and score off it. He could only be run out. Amendment was made in the law allowing one-run for an unscored off no ball.

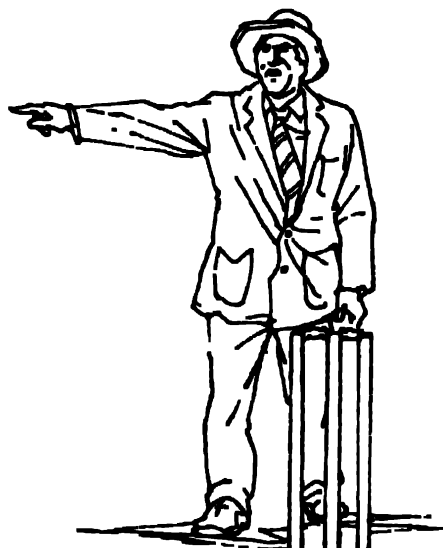
□ In 1835, bowling underwent a change in style. It was an important reform. Bowlers were allowed to raise the arm "to the shoulder level". The reformers, however, were not wholly satisfied with the change. They continued their campaign and in 1864 the MCC legalised the new style.

□ As this art of bowling gained momentum, fresh con-

troversies were born surrounding the new jerky bowling action. Many bowlers were penalised for unfair delivery. But some managed to get the umpires' approval, though their jerky action was as suspect as of many other bowlers.

□ In 1899, another important amendment was introduced allowing square-leg umpires to declare 'no ball', if the bowling action was not in accordance with the laws. Once in a County match, the square-leg umpire, Phillips, called Tyler for a throw. Walter Wright, standing at the bowler's end, refused to accept his colleague's verdict and he did not allow any extra ball to be bowled in the over. Connoisseurs of the game might still be debating what would have happened, if the batsman had been out off one of Phillips' no-balls?

□ This was not the first instance when two umpires disagreed on the matter of no ball. There



have also been instances when umpires have been guided by their own likes and dislikes and penalised certain bowlers for their 'suspect' action. The most amazing instance has been described by P T Thompson, the West Indies correspondent of the *Cricketer*.

"As soon as Mobarak Ali was put in to bowl, the umpires started no-balling him, and it mattered little what type of balls he bowled. He bowled his leg-breaks, and the umpire 'called'. So finally he did an amazing thing. He started bowling under-arm creepers and the match was for a time reduced to a farce. In this riot of no balls, Sealy actually lost his wicket. Expecting yet another no-ball, he had a crack, was caught and then found the umpire had not called. Ali continued to bowl and eventually the no-balling ceased. Though he was probably quite right in a few of his decisions,

one cannot help but say that 'our umpire' did rather overdo things. Ali was no-balled 30 times, and something will have to be decided about his bowling before the next tournament comes round."

□ Here are some problems.

□ Q: Can a batsman object to a bowler finishing his run up on the danger area of the pitch?

□ A: The batsman will be well within his rights to point it out to the umpire,

who should caution the bowler. But, if the bowler persists the umpire will have to discuss the problem with the Captain and then take his final decision.

□ Q: A new batsman enters the ground when heavy rain interrupts play. Can another batsman be sent when the game resumes after some time or next morning?

□ A: No. The batsman's innings begins from the moment he steps inside the boundary. Hence another batsman will not be allowed to come.

□ Q: Can a bowler switch over from over to round, right to left and over-arm to under-arm in the same over?

□ A: Why not? But the bowler has to inform the umpire, who, in turn, will bring it to the notice of the batsman. This is mandatory.

□ Q: When a day is lost due to inclement weather, will a three-day match be regarded as such?

□ A: No. It will be regarded as a two-day match.

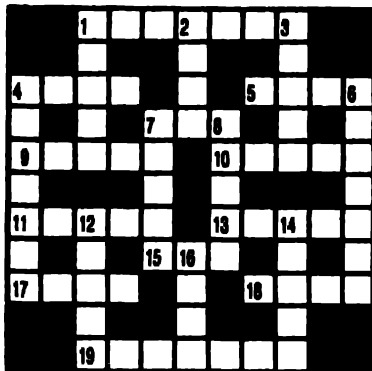


Illustration by Subrata Ganguly

Crossword

MUDAR

155



ACROSS

- 1 One of Argentina's young heroes of the '78 World Cup (1,6)
- 4 This Hill was no mountain but an Australian batsman (4)
- 5 Even the best of batsmen sometimes run out of this (4)
- 7 A Lever of cricket fame, initially (1, 1)
- 9 One of the moving figures behind the Bombay hockey World Cup has a beast of burden in between (5)
- 10 '...and Unders', a book by Greg Chappell (5)
- 11 Haslingden is—in Lancashire noted for cricket (1, 4)
- 13 Venue of the first Asian Games (5)
- 15 Italian soccer star begins with an R, ends with an I and has this in between (3)
- 17 Egoistic ending to the first name of an Indian cricketer, now retired (4)
- 18 First name of a cricketer who played for both, India and Pakistan (4)
- 19 A great heavyweight boxing champion ran errands for this Maha chief (7)

DOWN

- 1 Tennis' Neville Cardus (5)
 - 2 This Malone has now retired from first-class cricket (4)
 - 3 A musical term for ascertaining cricketing proficiency (5)
 - 4 Ian Botham will probably become the greatest all-rounder of all time but never this, perhaps (7)
 - 6 Sixteen wickets on his Test debut (6, 1)
 - 7 Connors, informally (5)
 - 8 Cricket's holy of holies (5)
 - 12 This Washbrook made a Test comeback once but was out at 98, returns (5)
 - 14 Indian Ranji Trophy player is mainly constituted by an English batsman (5)
 - 16 A gripper on the cricket field is simplified to this (4)
- Excellent: 22—28, Good: 18—18, Fair: 17—18.

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

- D J. Patra, Bhubaneswar.**
Q. What is the full form of C A B ?
A. Cricket Association of Bengal, Prabin Gaba, Chabua.
Q. Who topped the batting and bowling averages in the 1961-62 Indo-Pakistan Test series?
A. C G Borde of India headed the batting averages with 82.50 and in bowling department R G Nadekarni of India topped the averages with 24.33
Q. How many centuries have Saeed Ahmed and Hanif Mohammad hit in Tests for Pakistan?
A. Saeed Ahmed has hit five centuries and Hanif Mohammad 12
Akhtar Jamal, Dibrugarh
Q. What is Jack Noreiga's Test bowling record? What are his best bowling figures? In which year and against whom did he make his Test debut?
A. Noreiga has in four Tests for West Indies, bowled 1322 balls, 47 maiden overs, conceded 493 runs and captured 17 wickets at the average of 29. His best bowling performance was nine for 95 in the second Test against India at Port-of-Spain in 1970-71. He made his debut in the first Test against India at Kingston in 1970-71 and bid farewell to Test cricket in the fifth Test at Port-of-Spain of the same series
Ratan Kishore Tewary, Bhagalpur and Prabin Datta, Gauhati
Q. What is C P S Chauhan's full name and date of birth?
A. Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan was born on 21 April, 1947
S R Pandey, Bombay
Q. Why are the Australians also called Aussies?
A. Aussies is the short form of Australians
N S Vijayakumar, Ernakulam
Q. Who was the first batsman in the history of Tests to hit 1000 runs in a calendar year?
A. Clem Hill of Australia, who made 1060 runs in 12 Tests in the calendar year of 1902
Bishnu Sahu, residence not mentioned.
Q. What are full names of Bradman.

Sobers and Thomeon?

A. Donald George Bradman, Garfield St. Auburn Sobers and Jeffery Thomson are their respective full names
Abhijit Chatterjee, Calcutta.

Q. What is the highest fifth-wicket partnership in Tests?

A. 405 runs compiled by S G Barnes and D G Bradman of Australia against England at Sydney in 1946-47

Q. What is Polly Umrigar's highest score in Tests?

A. 223 made against New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1955-56

Q. Against whom did Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi score his first Test century?

A. M A K Pataudi hit his first Test century of 103 runs against England at Madras in 1961-62

Kaushik Sarkar, Calcutta

Q. How many half centuries has Sunil Gavaskar scored in Tests? What is the record of most half centuries in Tests?

A. Before going to England, Sunil Gavaskar had hit 30 half centuries in 75 Tests for India. Geoff Boycott of England holds the world record of hitting as many as 42 half centuries in 108 Tests for England

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

- 1 Which World Cup soccer star was nicknamed Justo?
- 2 Which footballer scored four goals in his only World Cup appearance?
- 3 Which great footballer of the Seventies is conversant with five languages?
- 4 It is a common misconception that the Jules Rimet Trophy represents a fairy whereas actually it is a goddess. Could you name the goddess?
- 5 Name the jeweller who made the Jules Rimet Trophy
- 6 What is the height of the Jules Rimet Trophy?
- 7 How much does the Jules Rimet Trophy weigh?
- 8 The Jules Rimet Trophy represented a goddess. What does the FIFA World Cup depict?
- 9 Which jeweller made the FIFA World Cup?
- 10 What is the height of the FIFA Cup? What is its weight?

ANSWERS

- 1 Just Fontaine (France)
- 2 Ernest Wilimowski (Poland) against Brazil in 1938
- 3 Johan Cruyff (Spanish, English, French, German and Italian)
- 4 It is winged Nike, the goddess of Victory in ancient Greek mythology
- 5 Abel Lafleur of Paris
- 6 30 cm
- 7 1,500 gm
- 8 It represents the globe resting on the outstretched arms of the athlete
- 9 Silvio Gazzaniga of Italy
- 10 36 cm, 5 kg

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 154

T	O	K	Y	O		H	E	N	R	Y
O		C		S	Y	D		M		O
M	B	L	A	N	C		O	P	E	N
		R		H		N		R		
B	E	S	T		O		A		Y	E
O				L		L				O
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B				A		B				S
Y	O	R	K		N	U		B	A	R
				I		D				A
C	A	S	T	L	E		G	A	R	N
A				T		R	A	E		N
N	O	S	Y	T				B	A	R

R. Shankar, Salem.

Q. Who is the first Indian bowler to perform a hat-trick in Tests? Who were the victims and how were they dismissed?

A. No Indian bowler has yet performed a hat-trick in Tests

R. Rajendran, Palghat

Q. Which are the cups and trophies associated with the game of cricket in India?

A. They are Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Irani Cup, Deodhar Trophy, Willis Trophy, C. K. Nayudu Trophy, Vijay Merchant Trophy, Vizzy Trophy, Rohinton Baria Trophy and the Cooch-Bihar Trophy. They are the trophies and cups which are awarded to the winners of the tournaments conducted by the Board

Bridge

Boni Schapiro

Quotations are addictive. Last week I referred to the Duke of Wellington - this week I am reminded of Sherlock Holmes and the dog that did not bark in the night (*Silver Blaze*). Try this hand and see if you would play it correctly

♠ K 8 7 4 2
♥ 8 7
♦ Q 8 7 3
♣ 10 4

♠ 5
♥ A 5 4 2
♦ 5 2
♣ K Q 7 6 5

N
W E
S

♠ 6
♥ Q J 10 9 6
♦ K 10 9
♣ 9 8 3 2

♠ A J 10 9 3
♥ K 3
♦ A J 6 4
♣ A J

West dealt at game all and when the deal came up in match play both Souths opened one spade after three passes. West passed and one North jumped directly to four spades - a wild overbid with no great distributional assets and a limited point count. The other North, faced with the same problem, contented himself with a modest raise to two spades. However South tried for the spade game by bidding three diamonds and North accepted his effort by going on to four spades. A very reasonable way to treat the hand, I would say. Well, how do you tackle the play after the lead of the King of clubs? The South with the aggressive partner fell short of his target. He drew trumps and exited with ♠ J to leave West on lead. It seemed a good idea, he reckoned, for surely any return would be to his advantage. Unfortunately it didn't work out like that. After some thought West got off play with a diamond and there was no way for declarer to prevent East getting the lead (sooner or later). Then a heart came through and it was all over. The other South (partnered by the more cautious North) played the hand more rationally. After drawing trumps he finessed ♠ J successfully and then cashed ♠ A before exiting with his losing club. I hope that you can follow his logic. If the diamond finesse had proved wrong then West, who had passed initially with ♠ K Q, ♠ Q and ♠ K could hardly hold ♠ A as well. The dog that did not bark in

Attab Alam, Buxar.

Q. What is the best ever partnership record for India?

A. 413 for the first wicket piled up by Vinoo Mankad and Pankaj Roy in the fifth Test against New Zealand at Madras in 1955-56 which is not only the best for India, but also in the entire Test cricket history

Q. How many times in Tests has Gavaskar been dismissed for a duck?

A. Seven times in 75 Tests
V. Hanumantha Rao, Hyderabad and Asis Nandy, Calcutta

Q. Could you please give the complete batting statistics of Sir Gary Sobers?

A. 93 Tests, 160 innings, 21 times not out, 8,032 runs, 365 not out as his highest score, 57.78 average, 25 centuries, 30 half centuries and 12 ducks

the night!

As it happened, the King of diamonds did not fall under the Ace but West (put in with ♠ Q) was end-played - he was forced to concede a ruff and discard or lead hearts

Last week's quiz. Having arranged to play transfer overcalls over 1 NT, you are surprised to hear your partner overcall an opponent's bid of 1 NT with one heart. He corrects his insufficient bid to two hearts. Fine, there have been no penalties incurred but I think that it would be unethical of you to pass rather than convert dutifully to two spades. By failing to do so you are taking advantage of having heard him bid one heart first. The trouble is that if he had changed his bid to two diamonds (showing hearts) you would, by law, be compelled to pass. Moral: If you propose making insufficient bids, don't play transfer overcalls!

This week's quiz. At love all you deal with ♠ A Q 10 5 2, ♥ Q 3, ♦ K 7, ♣ Q 6 4 3. You open one spade, your partner responds two hearts and you rebid two spades (2 NT would be considered as showing a slightly better hand). Now partner continues with three hearts - do you push on to four hearts, try 3 NT or subside?

Chess

John Clarke

The International Chess Federation's latest rating list shows that the USSR is still very much the dominant nation. World Champion Karpov has moved up 30 thanks to his convincing performance against Korchnoi, and now stands at 2720, no less than 65 ahead of the next man, Jan Timman of The Netherlands, and there are eight of his colleagues also in the top twenty. Kasperov, Spassky, Belyavsky, Petrosian, Tal, Polugayevsky, Balashov and Tseshevsky. Hungary, with Portisch and Ribli, is the only other country having more than one player rated at 2500 and above. The leading Briton is John Nunn, equal 18th with Hort, Kavalek and Ribli, a ranking which confirms that he has displaced Tony Miles as our No. 1. During the past 18 months Nunn has developed into a most formidable grandmaster, capable of beating anyone in the world and winning major

N. Ravi Sankar, Calcutta.

Q. Other than Gavaskar, who are the other Indian batsmen to score a century in both innings of a Test?

A. Vijay Hazare, who made 116 and 145 in the Adelaide Test against Australia in 1947-48

R. K. Rewari, Bhagalpur

Q. What is D. R. Doshi's date of birth?

A. 22 December, 1947.

Pulak Chatterjee, South Guvindapur.

Q. Who are the Indians to have won a place among Wisden's "Five Cricketers of the Year"?

A. Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, C. K. Nayudu, Iftikhar Ali Khan Pataudi, Vijay Merchant, Vinoo Mankad, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, B. S. Chandrasekhar and Sunil Gavaskar

international tournaments

White: John Nunn; Black: Mikhail Tal. Sicilian Defence (Wijn aan Zee, 1982)

1 P - e4, P - e5; 2 N - f3, P - e3
3 P - e4, P - f5; 4 N - x f5, N - e5
5 N - e3, P - e3; 6 P - e3, Q - e2
7 B - e2, N - e3; 8 Q - e3, P - e3

Perhaps Tal was lulled into a false sense of security

This move gives White a target on the K side
9 N - e3, B - e2; 10 P - e4, P - e3
11 P - e4, Q - e3; 12 P - e4, B - e2
13 P - e4

Suddenly a full-scale assault gets going. Though it does not really break through it brings White a lasting spatial advantage

13 P - e4, 14 P - e5, N - e2

15 B - e3, P - e5; 16 N - e2, P - e4

This pawn sacrifice for central counterplay is understandable, but 16 KR - K1 or 16

QR - Q1 could well have been tried first

17 B - x f5, B - x f5; 18 Q - x f5, B - e1

19 P - e5, N - e1; 20 N - e2, Q - e4, B - e5

21 B - e1, B - e1; 22 Q - e4, B - e1

23 B - e2, B - e2; 24 Q - e5, Q - e3

Unfortunately for Black, the endgame does not

afford him much relief from the pressure

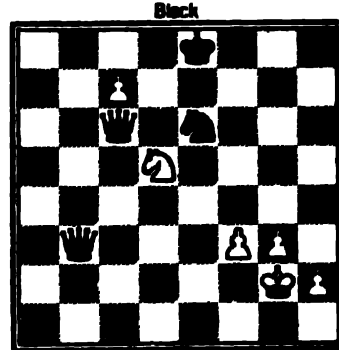
25 N - e5, Q - e3; 26 N - x f5, B - x f5

27 B - x f5, B - x f5; 28 B - x f5, B - x f5

29 B - e7, B - e3; 30 B - x f5, B - e1

31 B - e7, P - x f5; 32 B - e5, B - e5

Competition 6827. Solution next week



White

White to play and win. Grade 3 (medium)

Solution to 6826 (Spassky - Ribli, 1973). (8/7p/Sp/1P4r/2P2B/BBP/1/1/1 - Black to play.) Two neat sacrifices did the trick. 47

Q - b7ch, 48 Q x Q R - R4ch, 49 B x R, P - K4 mate


Problem No 1183. Solution next week

G. S. Kipping (Western Morning News, 1928) (8/3B1p/2K2/1N2B/PP/2/1P/2/1/1/1 - 0 white men, 0 black.) White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1182 (Spassky). (8/4Pp/2P/1P/2P/2P/1/1/1 - 0 white men, 0 black.) White to play and mate in two moves

1 P - e4, 2 P - e5, 3 P - e4, 4 P - e5, 5 K x P, (b) 1 P - e4, 2 P - e5, 3 P - e4, 4 R - e5, 5 K x P, 6 R x R

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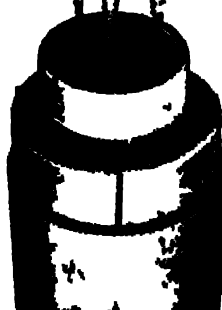
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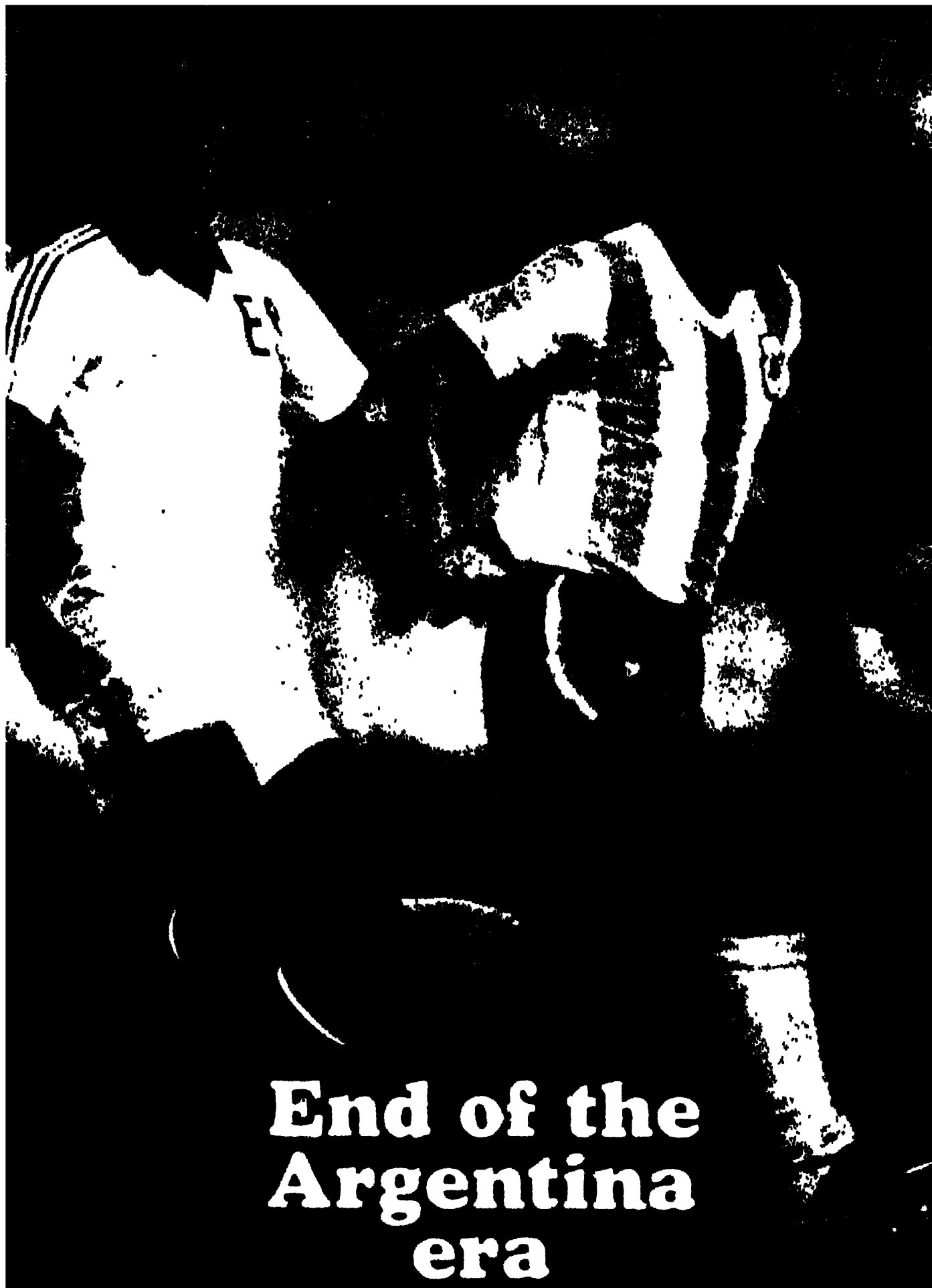


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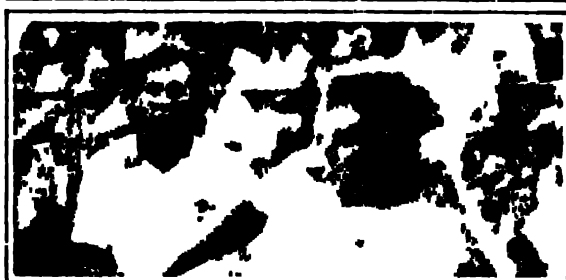
Sportsworld 28 JULY 1982

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Gerry Cooney came into bigtime news in a big way when he fought Larry Holmes for the world heavyweight title. He lost but eventually got more publicity than the winner. **GEORGE K. GEORGE** profiles the man and the boxer.



13 ITALY SCALE THE PEAK
In the last match of the World Cup Football '82 Italy got the better of West Germany in a match where many hearts throbbed. **ARIJIT SEN** and **P. K. BANERJEE** were on the scene of action and they report.

27 INDIA SAVES THE DAY
Though they lost the series India ensured that the last Test at The Oval was not lost as they rallied to put up a total sans Gavaskar and made England bat again. **IAN TERRENCE** **BOTTOM** reports.



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Cover transparency of Diego Maradona by Colorsport

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Pulled muscle?

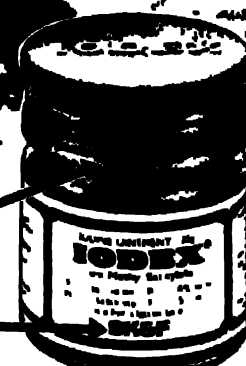
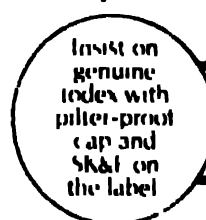


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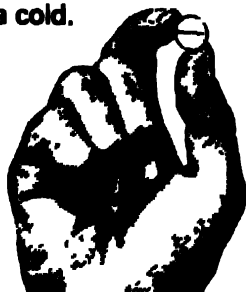
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Letters to the Editor

Unpredictable

IN the first Test against England, Gavaskar suddenly took away the bowling from Madan Lal after he had bowled five overs and brought on Ravi Shastri in his place instead. At least he could have put on Dilip Doshi, who is a far better bowler and who can succeed to a greater extent in keeping the runs in check as well as the batsmen. Since the last English tour of India it seems that Madan Lal is on a quota system. He is never given more than five consecutive overs with the new ball.

It is becoming increasingly evident that Gavaskar is losing respect for the game which has given him his fame and bread. He constantly shuffles himself in the batting order and bats left handed when the mood takes him. As a result of his histrionics, he is dearly paying on this current tour of England.

UDAY KUMAR
Calcutta

After an age again

JIMMY CONNORS, who won the men's singles title at Wimbledon in 1974, has won the tournament again after a gap of eight years. It would be interesting to know about other tennis players who have also won titles after such a long gap.

In the men's singles division, Bill Tilden who won the crown in 1920 and 1921 came back to win it again in 1930. Earlier, there had been an instance of Arthur Gore, champion in 1901, who won again in 1908 and 1909. Norman Brookes, too, who had won Wimbledon in 1907 had to wait seven years before he came to the front again in 1914.

In the women's singles, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, who won the title in 1971 came back to win again in

1980. Similarly, C. Cooper-Sterry, who had won the title in 1895, '96, '98 and 1901 had to wait till 1908 to lift the trophy again.

JAIMIN BHATT,
Bombay

Best Indian team

MY best Indian team is as follows: Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Merchant, Anil Wadekar, G. R. Vishwanath, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Farooq Engineer, Kapil Dev, Mohammed Nisari, I. A. S. Prasanna, Bishan Singh Bedi and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

VINU VAYAR,
Calcutta

HOW would this Indian team be? According to the batting order: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Manjrekar, G. R. Vishwanath, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Vinoo Mankad, Kapil Dev, Farooq Engineer, Ram Lal Desai, Bishan Singh Bedi and B. S. Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: S. Madan Lal.

CHIRANJI BANERJEE,
Calcutta

AS per your invitation, here is my Indian team: Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Merchant, Vijay Hazare (captain), G. R. Vishwanath, Polly Umrigar, Vinoo Mankad, Kapil Dev, S. Kumari, Amar Singh, Bishan Singh Bedi and I. A. S. Prasanna. Twelfth man: Brijesh Patel.

ANIRBAN PAUL,
Calcutta

Final say

I DOUBT whether any team from any age and from any country can beat this team of mine on paper. Here it goes: S. M. Gavaskar, Ramnath Parkar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Hemant Karkar, A. L. Wadekar, Vijay Manjrekar, C. T. Patankar, Khanu Rangnekar, P. Shivalkar, D. D. Hindlekar and Dattu Phadkar. Twelfth man: Ghulam Parkar.

RAJESH SHOLA-PURKAR,
Bombay

The marketing of Gerry Cooney

GEORGE K. GEORGE, who has been following Gerry Cooney's career over the past four years, unfolds the saga of the mysterious New Yorker

In recent years many boxers have earned millions by successful marketing strategies. The trend was set by Muhammad Ali, who pulled all the possible stunts he could, to attract the box office. He had talent, will and charisma. Some others like Larry Holmes, Ken Norton and Joe Frazier did it the hard way, by trading thousands of punches over the years. A few like Leon Spinks and Sugar Ray Leonard earned their title fights by winning the Olympic gold medals which brought them to public attention. But setting up an unknown and inexperienced local fighter for a 10 million dollar purse and a 50 million dollar fight almost overnight is a promotional miracle. Even the hot Ali-Frazier fight had only grossed 21 million. The marketing of Gerry Cooney surpasses even Sugar Ray Leonard's phenomenal promotion in box office.

THEY sell real estate in the New York area and have two things in common: a love for boxing and eccentricity. People call them "The Wacko Twins." But Mike Jones (46) and Dennis Rapport (36) have made history in another field, by packaging an unknown boxer from a New York suburb and selling him for 10 million dollars for his first major bout. Today, the world knows Gerry Cooney as much as any other boxing celebrity of the past few decades.

The irony is even more baffling when one looks at the recent covers of the leading magazines in America. *Time* featured Cooney with Sylvester Stallone, the hero of *Rocky III* on its cover. *Sports Illustrated*, the country's leading sports publication, assigned the front cover to Cooney and reserved the inside fold of the cover for undefeated champion, Larry Holmes. The list could go on if lesser known magazines and periodicals were included in the list. The packaging and marketing of Gerry Cooney has been one of the most astounding feats of modern sports promotion.



Muhammad Ali, microphone in hand, ventures to say that Cooney would beat Holmes

The story goes back to the small town of Huntington, New York. Gerald Anthony Cooney has his roots there, though he was born in the Brooklyn section of New York City. His parents, Tony and Eileen, moved to Huntington in 1958, two years after the boxer Cooney was born.

Tony, an ex-merchant mariner, was a construction worker. Gerry is very proud of the fact that his father belonged to the working class and for a while he did the same job before turning professional. He still is a member of the local structural steelworkers' union.

Gerry Cooney is the second of six children. His elder brother, Tony, was an amateur boxer, who reached the finals of 1973 Golden Gloves Tournament. A younger brother Michael manages a restaurant that Gerry opened in his locality. Stephen Eileen and Madeline work there in their spare time while Mrs Cooney is Gerry's secretary and advisor. She even appears with Gerry in a Norweco electric shaver commercial. Thus it is a very close family.

Tony Cooney made his children work hard at home and they had to learn all the household jobs and gardening. While other kids would be playing around, the Cooney boys would have to work at home for a while before joining the rest out side.

Tony himself had once cherished a dream to be a boxer. He had done some boxing when he was in the Marines but his ambition to be a professional fighter did not materialize. Thus, he wanted his sons to fulfil that dream for him and built a gymnasium in his house and made the boys work out daily. To make it come true he would wake them up early in the morning and work out with them over the weekends.

At 14, Gerry was sent to Huntington Gymnasium with brother Mike. Two years later, he was still a skinny, shy youngster of 6 feet 4 inches, weighing 160 pounds and with very little confidence in himself. But he was still addicted to the sport. "I loved boxing," he says. "When I had all those insecurities it made me feel like a somebody. People looked at me like I was special. That helped me to grow."

Gerry Cooney initially participated in the Golden Gloves competition at Madison Square Garden, New York, and won the sub-novice title. At that time he also played in the school football team and was a fairly good wrestler too but his heart always remained in the ring.

Every morning Tony Cooney would wake up the boys at 5:30 and make them run three miles, running along with them. That he would follow by a series of exercises.

At 17, Gerry was sent to Queens Gymnasium in the city and Tony would accompany his son there almost every day. But Gerry found his father too demanding and one day he got so fed up that he asked him, "Whom do you want me to win for—for you or for me?" Tony Cooney did not have any words in reply. He just looked at his son in cold silence. To this day Gerry Cooney remembers that incident.

In 1974 the younger Cooney finished his schooling and moved from his parental home to the apartment of his older brother. He had started training at his own pace by then and by the following year, he had accumulated a 55-2 record as an

amateur. His most outstanding victim was the Soviet heavyweight champion, Nikolai Aksyonov, whom he knocked out at the Garden Four months later. He won the Golden Gloves finals at the same venue but unfortunately, his father was too sick to witness that triumph. Two months later, Tony died of lung cancer at 55.

Gerry Cooney's career was plunged into a crisis. He quit boxing and passed the chance of trying out for the Olympic boxing team. He took up construction work for a while but boxing was very much in his blood. He was determined to come back in a few months and he did.

This is where Jones and Dennis Rapport come into the story. They were real estate brokers working in the Long Island area with a mutual interest in boxing. They decided to go into boxing promotion together and signed the 1976 Olympic lightweight champion, Howard Davis, and negotiated a two million dollar deal from the CBS television network, an astronomical figure at that time.

The New York Press has tons of stories about the eccentric stunts of these two men. One of their clients, the 1968 Olympic lightweight champion, Ronnie Harris, could not get a fight. So they dressed up a fellow businessman in a gorilla outfit and let him loose in Madison Square Garden during a fight. Teddy Brenner, the matchmaker at the Garden, had to give them a fight to get them off his back. Harris did not get too far, but at least Davis got a title fight, which he lost.

It was at this point that they signed local boy Gerry Cooney in 1976, after two months of negotiations. They agreed to advance him 200 dollars a week against future earnings. They selected Victor Valle as his trainer, a fighter with a 46-1 record who had trained a few boxers since 1938.

Luckily an instant rapport was established between Cooney and Valle, the latter almost becoming a father figure to the young fighter. That was the beginning of the marketing of Gerry Cooney.

COONEY had a few impressive ingredients. He was young, hungry and a big man with a vicious left hook. Sparring partner Joe Bugner says that he has the most devastating left hand since the prime of Joe Louis. At 6' 7" and 225 pounds, Cooney is a giant in every sense of the word.

But what has made Gerry Cooney a rare product in the boxing market is his colour—he is white. And he can still turn out to be the long awaited Great White Hope.

It has been quite a while since a white man has made his presence felt on the heavyweight boxing scene. In 1910, James J. Jeffries had come out of retirement to take on Jack Johnson. Rockey Marciano,

who retired the year Cooney was born, was the last white heavyweight champion from the United States. In 1959, Ingemar Johansson had taken away the title from Floyd Patterson for a year but no outstanding white man entered the heavyweight boxing arena since then. Fighters like Ron Stander and Chuck Wepner could not emerge even as serious contenders. Not that they lacked promotion or patronage. Talent itself was just not there.

The strategy of the co-managers was to build up Cooney as the undefeated white champion. The first part had to be manipulated. And the search for easy opponents began. Cooney's losses as an amateur came from the Davis brothers. Eddie Davis knocked him out in the second round in 1974 and a year later, brother John beat him points. But he had to compile a perfect record as a professional. Subtly Jones and Rapport managed to create a 25-0 score with 22 ko's for Cooney.

The rough sketch of Cooney's bouts can like this: February 15, 1977 Cooney's professional debut with a first round knock-out against Bill Jackson. March 20 knockout of Jose Rosario in the second round at Louisville, Ali's hometown. August 1 Outpoints Matt Robinson in round four without a knockdown. Then three more knockouts follow in 1977 and another six in 1978.

January 13, 1979 His toughest fight to date against Eddie (Animal) Lopez. Cooney won the eighth round decision after a close fight. June 29 knockout of Tom Porter, the light heavyweight, who had lost an eight-round decision to Larry Holmes in 1976. But by the time Cooney fought him, Porter was no force to reckon with as he had lost eight of his previous fights. August 22 Broderick Manson is floored for the first time in his career by a fourth round knockout. October 19 Sixth round knockout of Malik Dozier who was a last minute substitute for Terry Mimmis, who in turn was a last minute substitute for 'Smokey' Middleton. November 9 Cooney's first appearance at the Garden as a professional. The referee stopped the fight against Dino Dennis, who was always overrated. Though he had a career record of 35-2-1, he too had not fought too many tough opponents. Moreover, he was quite out of shape by the time he fought Cooney.

May 25, 1980 In Landover, Cooney took over Jimmy Young, who had lost a controversial decision against Ali and had surprised George Foreman. But he was also in poor shape by the time he faced Cooney and had lost four of the last seven bouts before their encounter. It was a fourth round knockout. October 25 At the Nassau Coliseum, a major indoor arena near his hometown, Cooney fought Ron Lyle. But Lyle was only the shadow of the fighter he

was when he had faced Ali, Ernie Shavers and Foreman. With 11 seconds remaining in the first round, Cooney sent him to the ropes, spitting out his mouthpiece.

May 11, 1981. Back to the Garden. This time Ken Norton, who came out of retirement was in the other corner. It only took 54 seconds for Cooney to send him reeling. Referee Tony Perez who stopped the fight was to later say, "If I had let Gerry hit him a couple of more shots, it might have been fatal."

That was Gerry Cooney's track record before his championship bout with Larry Holmes. Quite dismal, one might say. Since May 25, 1980 Cooney had been in the ring for only a total of three minutes and 43 seconds against a 40-year-old and a 36-year-old. In his 25 bouts, Cooney had fought only 64 complete rounds and 22 in part.

Still, he was able to get a shot at the title against the undefeated defending champion on his own terms. Seldom has a challenger been paid the same amount as the defending champion.

That is where the marketing of Gerry Cooney worked. Jones and Rapport built their star by carefully planning his undefeated record. They tried to launch him as "Irish Gerry Cooney", appealing to the emotions of a predominant white group in the country. It did not work. Cooney himself was not too happy about it either. But one cannot deny the racial implications of his success.

Larry Holmes is not altogether wrong when he says, "If Cooney wasn't white he'd be nothing." A black young man with the same talents and with a record like Cooney's would have been forced to fight a few more tougher battles to prove his worth before earning a shot at the world title. Now Jones and Rapport claim that "he's not the white man, he's the right man."

A year ago—even after destroying Ken Norton—Gerry Cooney was just a local hero. Very few people outside the New York area knew of him. But his managers have been able to sell him to mighty Don King and his protegee Holmes on their own terms. In fact, Cooney had the cheek to tell Holmes last year, "You need me more than I need you. Don't forget that."

The character of Gerry Cooney has also helped a lot in his marketing. He is a refined gentleman, acts and talks like a champion while essentially remaining a simple person. He still lives in the same apartment where he has lived since he began his fighting career and surprisingly still pays 327 dollars for his rent. Only recently did he buy a good car.

He is also proud of his middle class working background. "You know what I'd really like when I'm not boxing any more? I'd like to go back and work with them (the construc-



Both boxers Holmes (left) and Cooney pound each other.

tion workers he used to work with) on those buildings a couple of days a week."

Even after earning his first 10 million dollars, Gerry Cooney remains the same for his family and his friends. Hundreds of fans were at the John Kennedy International Airport to welcome him home after his loss to Holmes. It was such a rousing welcome that Gerry Cooney said with tears in his eyes, "I wish I could have won for you all." To him the heavyweight championship title is the greatest thing in the world. His only complaint about Larry Holmes was that the champion often failed to keep the image of his title. "I don't like the image he projects as champion of the world," says Cooney. "He sounds more like a street punk than the champion." But after the fight, Cooney gave due weightage to Holmes' abilities as a boxer.

While Jones and Rapport have built Cooney to a multi million dollar industry, some of their tactics are embarrassing. At the championship fight, Rapport would shout sentences like, "America needs you Gerry. America needs you," "Do it for your dead father, do it for your dead father." "Remember the kid with Leukaemia." Rapport also carried a "Tick, Tick" sign to the ring corner.

Larry Holmes is probably right when he says that Cooney will do well in future, provided he drops Rapport. There are rumours that Ali's trainer Angelo Dundee may take over from Valle. That could give Cooney the experience he does not have. He has proved his calibre as a legitimate contender to the world title and has demonstrated his ability to take punches. All he has to do now is acquire more experience and outgrow his image as a one-handed fighter.

Before the fight against Holmes, Jones once explained his strategy. "There is an important mystique for a fighter in being unbeaten. Some managers might throw their fighters in over their heads too early to find out if they can fight. I knew it from the time I saw him beat a Russian with tons of experience, as an amateur. I knew he had guts, too. But I wanted him to gain confidence in himself as a professional."

But Jones was wrong about the last point. Cooney did not have enough confidence as he faced Holmes though he has now earned it the hard way. Though he is beaten, his mystique is greater than ever.

Still, one has to give credit to The Wacko Twins, for the most successful sale in modern sport.

Faulty planning is our undoing

In an exclusive interview with SARAJIT DEB, the Indian football ace PRASUN BANERJEE recounts his experiences at the various Asiad preparatory camps held so far and assesses India's performances at the recent tournaments abroad

SPORTSWORLD Let us start from the beginning. During the Nationals at Cuttack, it was announced that the All India Football Federation would conduct a camp for the Asiad probables. What did you, as a player who has represented the country for quite some time, think of the idea?

PRASUN BANERJEE It was a welcome change. For the last few years we hardly had any chance to practise together before going out to play in a tournament. Thus, we used to go without knowing each other's game. So this time we got the opportunity to solve that problem. But the organisers made some mistakes.

SW Would you elucidate them?

PB Too many players were called up to the camp. If they had intentions to call so many players they should have started the camp immediately after the '78 Asian Games. If the camp had been conducted for four years a lot of new players could have been prepared. But since they decided to conduct the camp from February—about 20 months before the event—they should have called maximum 25 players. One set of senior established players and the other consisting of promising players who could be trained. This would have helped the coaches who could have started two camps simultaneously—one for the seniors and the other for the juniors. And if it was found that any of the established players was lacking in stamina, skill or sustained any injury, a reserve would have been there to fill the gap. Thus there would have been a perfect combination of youth and experience, something absolutely necessary for a team.

SW After the exodus of the players from the Salt Lake camp, there were a few players left and some others were brought. They were promised that the players who had left the camp would not be taken back under any circumstances. In addition they were told that a team would be sent to Dacca and also to the President's Cup. But, subse-

quently both the trips were cancelled. As a senior player, do you think it affected the morale of the players, firstly, for the trips being cancelled and secondly they must have been aware of the fact that if the players were called back, they would not get a chance in the final team?

PB Yes, you are absolutely right. After the Calcutta players left the camp, those who stayed on were promised about those trips and subsequently they were cancelled. It did have a bad effect on them. What did they practise for? Obviously to secure a berth in the team for the two trips and thus established themselves fully. But, since those two trips were cancelled, they did not get that opportunity. About the second question I think that it must have always been on the minds of the players, and they must have felt unsure. To overcome this, the trips should have been on. It would have helped them get a feel of international standards.

SW For the Secunderabad camp, seven of those players were selected, you being one of them. What was it like there?

PB The camp was situated inside a cantonment area. All arrangements they made were fine. The board and lodging facilities were good but there were some problems. First and foremost, the ground. It was far from satisfactory. Good, systematic practice was not possible. The soil was very hard and dry with no grass at all. We used to have practice in two sessions, in the morning and evening, and they were quite tiresome, mainly because of the ground. The studs of the boots were damaged every now and then. Okay, we had extra pair of boots, but how many can a player carry? Three or four pair. But still we fell short because the studs were rendered useless every second day. And when we practised with those boots, we injured our nails. In the end, what happened was that the players could not perform well.

In addition, we faced another problem, that of lack of recreation. Most of us were from middle class families where the whole atmosphere is very free. We stay with our family, mix with our friends and are always very relaxed. But in the cantonment area, there were too many restrictions and this depressed us to some extent. And it psychologically affected our performance.

The idea of having residential camps is very good. The English and German players are usually coached in this way. But they are used to the set-up. If the camp had started after the last Asian Games in Bangkok, the players would have grown used to it and would not have felt so depressed.

SW Before the team left for the Merdeka tournament, it played two matches at Calcutta and one at Krishnanagar, but they could not perform well. What do you think were the reasons?

PB It is true that the team did not play well in those matches, but the way the spectators reacted, it seemed that the national team was a foreign side. We hardly received any support. In fact, we were booed for our mistakes and this affected the morale of the team. Yes I admit only the weaker teams should be given such vocal support, but at the same time it must not be forgotten that we were the national team, soon going to play in a tournament abroad, and we should have been encouraged.

SW What was it like at the Merdeka?

PB We played reasonably well considering the fact that it was the first tournament we were playing in after the camp. There were a few reasons for our partial success. It was after a long time that the players were kept together and had developed understanding amongst themselves. The players, coming from different provinces can come close only if they stay together. They develop a tremendous team spirit, as it happens to players playing together for a club. Some people say that a player performs better for his club than for his country. I think the basic reason is that players of the same club, by spending a lot of time together, practising together and thereby knowing each other's strength and weaknesses can help their colleagues better.

There was another important reason. I had noticed that in previous tournaments the Indian team usually fights very hard for the first few minutes and then in the last 20 minutes, they suddenly get tired out. The main reason for this is lack of stamina. This is another front where we were sound at the Merdeka. Having done intensive training, the stamina of the players had improved to a considerable degree. And that was the main reason why we could fight till the very end.



The action at the Bangkok Asiad. Bidesh Bose is being chased by a Bangladeshi defender. How will India fare at Delhi this November?

SW What were the deficiencies of the team?

PB In the Merdeka we played in the 4-3-3 formation. Mihir Bose and myself played in most of the matches and the third half was either Pariminder Singh or Harpinder Singh or Krishnendu Roy. We could not go on the offensive as often as we should have. Usually, we played with one winger on the left Bidesh Bose, and two strikers. The task of the players playing in the right half position, be it Mihir, Pariminder or Krishnendu was to go up and function as the right winger when the team was launching on attack. In this, we were only half successful. Sometimes they went up, sometimes they couldn't and thus in most cases the attackers were outnumbered by the rival defenders.

We had our reasons as to why we failed to go forward more often. We play in the 4-2-4 formation in the national tournaments. In this formation constant overlapping is not possible because we feed our forwards from the back. We play with one linkman constant—the defensive medio—and the other sometimes goes up. The players did not get the time and the opportunity to get used to the new system.

If this change had been implemented earlier, and at all levels,

the players would not have found things so difficult. Another thing we lacked was speed, a very essential thing in today's football.

But, what one should not forget is that we are not world class players who are capable of understanding moves quickly. I'll be frank and tell you that even after we practise a particular move many times, when the crucial moment comes, we can not utilise it properly. But that does not mean we are not trying. The coaches and the players are trying their best.

SW What about the trip to North Korea?

PB That was a very bad experience. Can you imagine that a national team was going abroad and the visas were not arranged? Would they have done so in the case of a cricket team? We were, frankly speaking, treated like prisoners at Moscow Airport, but I do not blame them. They were acting according to the law. I think if the papers cannot be prepared, a national team should not be sent at all.

Coming to the tournament proper, we left for North Korea the same evening we came back from the Merdeka tournament. The players were tired and after that came that experience at Moscow.

But I failed to understand what

was the point in sending a team for that kind of a tournament? There were two North Korean sides and a second string Chinese team. The trip did not help the players at all. I think with the same amount of money the team could have been sent to the Middle East or Europe and that would have helped the team considerably.

SW This was followed by the trip to the UAE. Here a lot of new players were tried.

PB Yes, but I fail to understand why so many new players were selected. It would have been better had they brought a second team. What was the point in taking all the players and then discarding them from the camp? If the same team had been sent, it would have gained more experience.

SW But performances in the King's Cup was bad. It seemed whatever the team had achieved at the Merdeka it forgot during the King's Cup and we were back to square one.

PB We went to play in that tournament with a lot of injuries. It is true that we had accepted the invitation some time back, but that did not mean the team had to go to play with so many injured players. Even Bidesh Bose had to play as a left back. We lost 0-6 to a South Korean team and some people blamed certain players. It was pointless, the whole team failed and there's no point in blaming anyone in particular.

SW Don't you think that the preparation for the Nehru Gold Cup was adequate?

PB During the Trichur Nationals some of the players were called up to the camp which took place at Trichur itself. From the nationals a lot of players were selected and the final round of practice was held at Calcutta for just a week. So, in that way you can say it was inadequate, especially when you consider the fact that the tournament was being held in our country and was planned a long time back.

SW What do you think about the performance of the Indian team in the Nehru Gold Cup?

PB Before the tournament we thought that we would lose all the matches by big margins because all the foreign teams were better than us. But, we also knew that we had the advantage of playing at home. I think during the Nehru Gold Cup we reached our peak (since the starting of the camp). As I have already mentioned, we had some problems during the Merdeka when the halves were only able to go up only on occasions. During the Nehru Gold Cup, I would say that we improved on this aspect by at least 30 per cent. And that is why the halves were able to score some goals. What used to happen before was that the players lacked international experience and that was why we could not assess the weaknesses of the opponent teams.

Wimbledon '82: Stars and stripes

The 105th All-England Championships were once again dominated by the Americans. Rain could not dampen the spirit—the tournament went on.

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports from New York

ONCE again it was a proud July 4 for the Americans. Like last year, two of their own lifted the crowns at Wimbledon. Though the titles changed hands, they will remain in the United States for another year. Unlike the previous year, the U.S.A. had the pleasure of presenting two winners and four champions in the final round—the dethroned title holders John McEnroe and Chris Lvert Lloyd and the champions, Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova.

The victory of Connors delighted most of the Americans on the whole, as the tennis-loving public wanted Connors to win, but were skeptical about it, especially after Connors

went down unexpectedly in the quarter finals of the French Open. And what the public wanted was a just reward for Connors. The man had given too much to professional tennis and had received much less in return. It is impossible to believe that he had not won a single Grand Slam event for the past four years and yet his presence in the tennis world was so dominating that a tournament final between Borg and McEnroe looked incomplete without a semi-final bout involving Connors.

Neil Amdur of New York, one of the world's leading tennis critics, wrote "For the 29-year-old Connors seeded second behind McEnroe, vic-

tory was vindication. It was his first victory in a Grand Slam singles event since the 1978 U.S. Open, and it came at a time when many had questioned whether Connors had lost the fire that could bring him another championship."

Over the past few months, Connors had been promising that, for his own sake and for the people who love his game, he was pretty close to it at Paris, but his heart was set on two titles—the Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. He has now won the first and if he can pump himself as he did in the fourth set tie-breaker and the fifth set of the Wimbledon final, Connors may go on to win the title he covets most.

There was a major change in Connors this year. He was reborn, not just in his on-court manners, but in the style of his game. For years, senior players like Arthur Ashe had been admonishing and beseeching him to change his style a bit, but he couldn't. Finally, he resorted to a change and played a serve and volley game throughout the tournament. The difference was remarkable, the results refreshing.

And for that he has to be grateful to John McEnroe to some extent. It was McEnroe, who exposed Connors' weakness at Wimbledon, when he pointed out last year that he was playing 'clay court tennis' on grass against Bjorn Borg in the semi-finals. In spite of the change in strategy, his basic style remained the same. He threw himself at the ball mercilessly and gave it everything he had.

He was also in fine trim both mentally and physically. Former champion John Newcombe wrote in the beginning of the tournament: "Jimmy Connors strikes me as a finely tuned thoroughbred, peaked to perfection and ready to charge down the stretch. I have never seen the 29-year-old so relaxed and confident at a Wimbledon championship. And that includes 1974, when he won the tournament."

There is, however, another change in Connors. He does not allow bad calls to turn the tides on him, but he just lets them go and keeps pushing hard. When he was awarded a rather unfair warning, he looked at the umpire and said "Thank you very much," and carried on as if he had



Connors has long since turned over a new leaf. He makes his racket do the talking and displays admirable guts and power in winning matches.

It is unfair to say that Connors won only because of the absence of Borg and Ivan Lendl. Even if Borg had been allowed to participate at Wimbledon this year, he just could not have produced the desire and touch necessary for recapturing the title. Lendl, too, has seldom won on grass and never over Connors.

JOHN Mc NROI was a winner in his own way, though he lost the singles and the doubles crowns this year. For him the challenge was no more to win the Wimbledon or the number one ranking. He had to prove that he could behave and this he did the hard way—at the cost of his titles. In spite of a fine in his match against Tim Mayotte, he did conduct himself with a semblance of decency and Wimbledon acknowledged his conversion by giving him the trophies that were withheld last year. They also granted him the membership of the All England Club. But he did not attend the Champions Dinner saying that it was only for the champions.

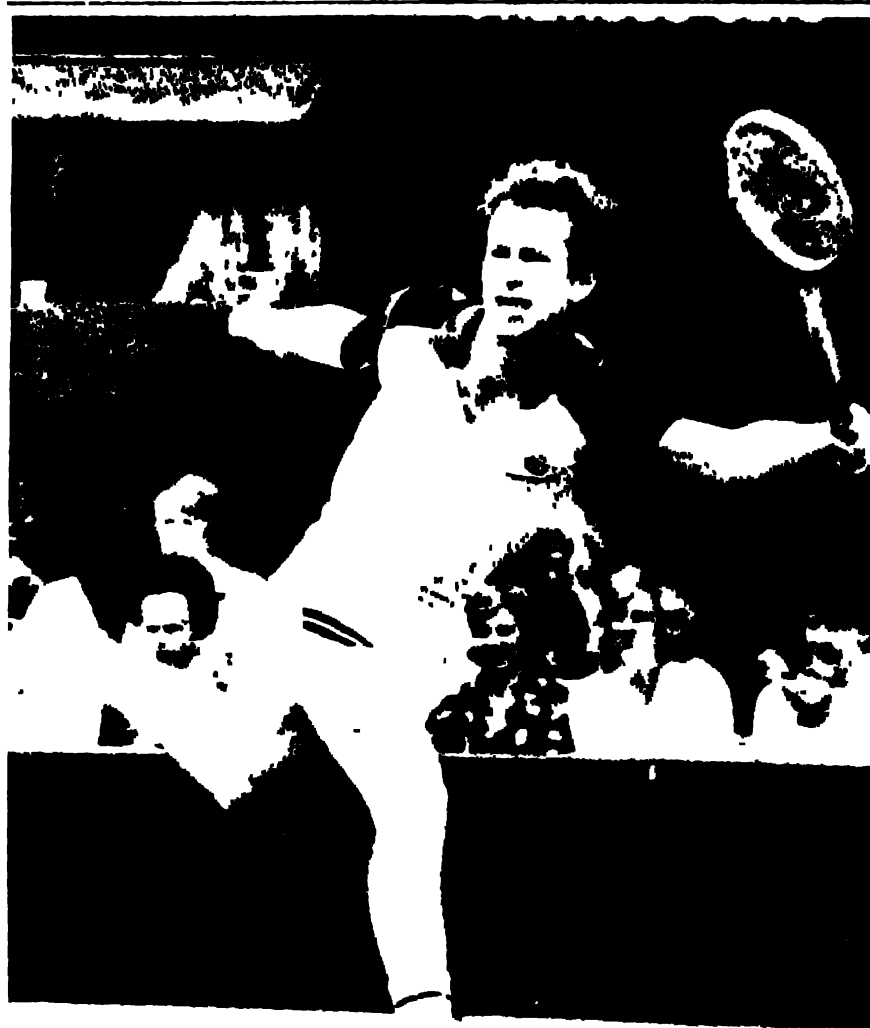
America does not hate McEnroe but the public just wanted Connors to win. The thinking was that the former had plenty of time to do it again. Last year, most of the Americans had rooted for Bjorn Borg but this year, even if they had met in the finals, more people would have supported McEnroe. After the 1981 Wimbledon America has got to know the kid better. He has taught many a

THIS year's Wimbledon also marked the rejuvenation of the 38-year-old Billie Jean King, who became the second oldest woman to reach the semi-finals of the tournament. She was the biggest surprise of

Billie Jean King the Grand Old Lady of Wimbledon

There are two players whom the United States would have loved to do better—Tracy Austin and little Kathy Rinaldi. The former was not expected to win the title, but her loss to Bilke Jean was disappointing, in spite of her lack of physical fitness. Andrea Jaeger's early exit was not quite unexpected. Fifteen year old





It was a bad Wimbledon for John McEnroe

Rinaldi who lost the momentum after a hot sting her in her match against Pam Shriver was a picture of grace and elegance even in defeat.

The two surprise semifinalists of the tournament came from the United States: Bettina Bunge and Tim Mayotte. Very few woman players are as underestimated as Bunge. A German by birth, she lived in South America before migrating to the United States. Her main disadvantage may be that she is determined to be a tennis professional and is also low key in her behavior and manners. Though she lost to Miss Navratilova in the semifinal, she finally won the recognition she deserves. Tim Mayotte, the unexpected quarterfinalist of last year, was once again underrated by the Press. But by beating Brian Teacher in a thrilling five-setter and facing McEnroe in the semis, the 1981 All American Varsity champion kept up the recent tradition of an unseeded semifinalist in the men's division.

The promising players from America also did extremely well in the tournament. Brian Teacher and Gene Meyer finally gave ample demonstrations of their abilities. Chip Hooper's knocking out of Peter McNamara was impressive and awe some. Lloyd Broune outlasted the Nastase before bowing to former college teammate McEnroe. Both the black youngsters, Hooper and Broune, are talented competitors with good looks and popular dispositions. Hooper, the toughest server in the game today (150 miles per hour), was so impressive in the early rounds that Arthur Ashe was contemplating the possibility of drafting him in to the U.S. Davis Cup team right away.

Zina Garrison, 18, another black youngster, drew immediate attention by knocking out enigmatic Evonne Coolagong in her first match. Like Kathy Rinaldi, she was the favorite of the crowd at Wimbledon and reminds, one of young Coolagong herself with her fluent,

strong and fast shots all over the court. Her exploits stole some attention from the other giant-killers. Candy Renolds swept aside last year's runner up Hana Mandlikova while Joanne Russel eliminated Mima Jausovec.

It was widely felt by most of the tennis experts that Evonne Cawley should not have been seeded at all. Instead, young Kathy Rinaldi should have been granted that distinction. Rinaldi won her first round match with grace and poise and the maturity and elegance that she has acquired over the year seemed to strike everyone as remarkable.

Barbara Potter, who lost to Chris Evert in the quarters, was another impressive performer. Few players have the degree of enthusiasm that she has for the game and like Bettina Bunge, has been underrated even in her own country. Anne Smith, predominantly a doubles player, also continued her improved singles performance at Wimbledon.

The biggest disappointment for the Americans in this year's Wimbledon was, without doubt, Vitas Gerulaitis. Had he lost in one of the earlier rounds, the fans would not have been so let down. His brilliant efforts and dedication then gave them the hope of an all American semi final but his loss to Australian Mark Edmondson deprived the world of what could have been the most spirited encounter of the tournament. Connors and he, had they met, would have been perfect foils for each other.

Last year, the Americans had swept away all the titles except the mixed doubles on their Independence Day. This year, the spoils were distributed more evenly in the doubles events. Peter McNamara and Paul McNamee reclaimed the doubles by unseating the American duo of Fleming and McEnroe. The rain delays had burdened McEnroe to play a host of matches on the last three days and that was held out as the reason for their defeat.

Barbara Potter and Sharon Walsh were top rated in the women's doubles event. But Navratilova and Pam Shriver provided a mild surprise by beating another American pair, Kathy Jordan and Anne Smith to make it complete for Navratilova. But the mixed doubles went to Kevin Curren of South Africa and Anne Smith who played their fourth consecutive match on the final day to beat Chris Lloyd's husband, John, and veteran Wendy Turnbull of Australia.

Except for the men's doubles, part of the mixed doubles and Mark Edmondson's semi final appearance, the show was monopolized by the Americans. Once again, the British remained the landlords of Wimbledon while the Americans stole the show without controversies and conflicts.

End of Argentina era

**P. K. BANERJEE and ARIJIT SEN report on
the final and semi-finals from Madrid**

SO one more World Cup is over. The cacophony in the stands will no longer disturb the serious viewer, nor will the weeping on the streets attract curious passers-by. Madrid will revert back to its other tourist attractions and its monetary transactions, which is what a capital is all about here in Spain. But aficionados will not forget the tensions, excitement and the fervour with which football is followed the world over, particularly in Europe and Latin America, from all parts of which a total of 50,000 people came to see football's greatest show.

Italy won the glittering gold cup from King Carlos and then 20,000 supporters, but spectators will never forget that Brazil was the best in terms of football skill and innovative attack. Their brand of soccer delights the senses. One really wishes, the whole world played their game. Germany deserved to lose, because, like England, they have no individualistic flair, which is essential to

lift a team from just efficient to really good. But not France, who in the later stages, came up with some delightful play. Platini and Rocheteau being the torch bearers of that brand of soccer. One also remembers the plucky teams like Cameroon and El Salvador and Algeria, as also the bad luck of the Scots who, in our opinion, were a better side than the vaunted England.

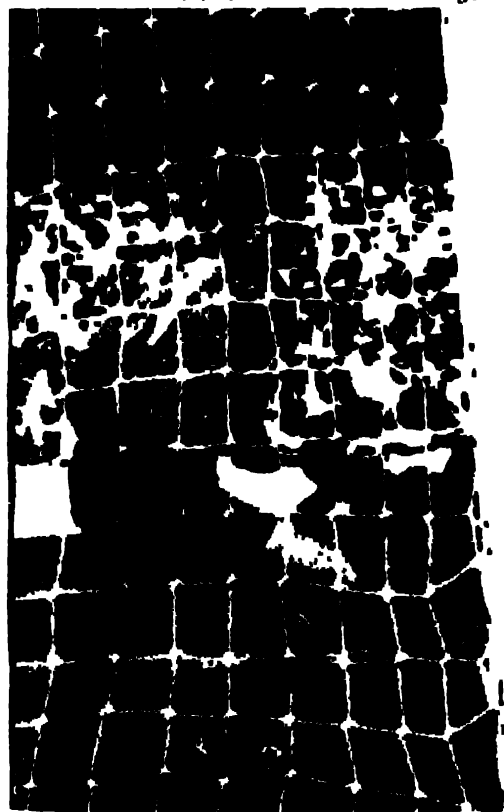
The tournament provided the world with first hand knowledge of the path the game is taking in 1982. The basis of the game in Europe is defence. This was exemplified by the Italians, who won only because they were fastest off the mark in attack. But the others in the continent lacked that speed and so could not really match them. The Latin Americans played far more positive soccer, willing and able to keep the ball in the other's half for long stretches, despite the fact that by doing so, they always exposed their own goal. What

they had was individual class, which allowed them to innovate all along a game. The other noticeable factor was the ability to kick hard and true. Although several goals were missed, one never failed to notice how powerful the shots at goal were, even from 35 to 40 yards out.

But this tournament of champions is no different from the most modest of competitions—the team that scores, wins. Here, in addition to skill and craft, one needed luck to get through. While this proved the stumbling block for all the other teams, it won everything for Enzo Bearzot and his men.

THE pressure of a final has ill-effects on all players and it was no surprise that the twelfth World Cup did not reach great heights. Moreover, West Germany had not fully recovered from their emotion charged semi-final against France while the Italians had a string of gruelling matches against Argentina, Brazil and Poland.

Paolo Rossi of Italy, (20) scores his team's first goal beating Poland's custodian Jozef Mlynarczyk (extreme left) during the semi-final



Sidelights

WORLD CUP

National calamity

NATIONAL reaction to failure in the World Cup has been intense. But for the Spanish nation it has been more of a calamity than for Brazil. Over 13,000 fans had swarmed the pensions, residencias and hotels of Spain moving with the team from city to city and drumming and singing their praises. They and the rest of the spectators believed that Brazil would win the Cup easily. But that was not to be. The day Brazil lost to Italy, the drums stopped beating. The reaction back home was equally sad, and the situation extremely embarrassing for the authorities, who had scheduled holidays on the days Brazil were to play in the semi-final and final.

Best market place

THE World Cup is the best market place for buying players. And, with the introduction of 24 teams, the choice has widened considerably for professional clubs in Europe. Poland's defender and captain, Wladyslaw Zmuda has got a transfer to Italy's Verona. For 300,000 dollars, he will be shifting from Widzen Lodz. Before him, however, Zbigniew Boniek had signed for Juventus for a record Polish fee of one mil-

lion five hundred thousand dollars. We will now be hearing about players from Cameroon and Algeria coming to Europe.

Proved wrong

THIS World Cup, more than any other, has shown up astrologers as nothing more than quacks. Soothsayers whose calculations do not reflect reality and are obviously based on teams, rather than individual players who make up teams, naturally, all calculations went awry.

First to fall by the wayside was a Peruvian who is very respected in his country. The man said quite confidently that Peru would reach at least the second round of the competition. But Peru were ousted in the first but the astrologer was an honest broker. In order to

atone for this, he shaved his head and paraded the streets of Lima of his own accord. Another person who sought publicity in this sphere was Thailand's leading lady astrologer. According to her, Brazil and West Germany would reach the final and the former would win 3-1. She stumbled in the second stage itself as Brazil were beaten by West Germany, so was a Soviet computer. Of course it was wrong about Brazil saving the South Americans would win 1-0. This, by missing so many chances of scoring, Brazil proved both man and machine wrong.

Bonus

NORTHERN IRELAND, however, have had a bonanza, they were the unlikely second rounders and as such whatever they got was a bonus.

ultimately, apart from the players' profits. The Northern Ireland FA reaped a harvest of 500,000 dollars, which will help the association to initiate several developmental programmes.

Not empty-handed

WHEN England drew with Spain, they went home a lot lighter. The unused provisions in their lorry included 120 training kits, eight sets of playing kits for each player, thirty footballs, two gross studs and laces, 144 packets of breakfast cereals, 36 bottles of brown sauce and, yes, 1200 packets of chewing gum. England had been insured for 22 million pounds back home. This included cover for any terrorist activity concerning the Falklands. The players were insured for a total of 18.5 million pounds and the manager Ron Greenwood and others for 1.5 million pounds.

Tailpiece

AMONG the list of dignitaries who attended the World Cup was former US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, this was a hat-trick of World Cups for him, for he had attended the last two. But even he was wrong when he had said either Brazil or Spain would win. Both were knocked out in the second rounds.

Every drop fights scalp dryness

Vaseline

HAIR TONIC
AND SCALP CONDITIONER





The all-important goal in the semi-final between West Germany and France being scored by the former's substitute player Horst Hrubesch (left)

The Germans started confidently at the Barnibeau Stadium and it took the Italians a dozen minutes to find their bearings. Just one minute after the final had got under way Fischer passed the ball to Litkebarski. The latter could not beat the French custodian, thereby wasting a German half-chance. Breitner, the only German in the side with the experience of the 1974 World Cup behind him, forwarded a beautiful cross to Rummenigge. The German skipper swivelled on his feet, albeit in a hurry and another opportunity went begging. Italian Bergomi, wearing the number three jersey, was the first to have a shot at the German goal. But his 25 yard shot curved away.

Enzo Bearzot's men soon began to have a major share of the exchanges. Halfway through the first half, Cabrini centred the ball into the German penalty area. The entire German defence was beaten and Briegal, fully aware of the danger of the situation, brought Conti down. Brazilian referee Coelho had no hesitation to award a penalty in favour of the Italians. An over-confident Cabrini took the penalty kick and shot wide off the left post. Cabrini now has the none-too-honourable distinction of becoming the first person to miss a penalty in a World Cup final. He started his run up for the kick from a very acute angle, thus giving Schumacher the opportunity of sensing that the ball was going to be kicked on his left. Seeing the German goalkeeper moving to the left Cabrini attempted to make his kick go to

finer angle. The Italians had wasted a golden opportunity of forging ahead and one wondered whether they would still manage to hold themselves together.

In the 38th minute, a determined German raid resulted in a Briegal header ricochet off the hard working Gentile for an abortive corner.

In the second half, it was the tireless Gentile who once again put the ball into the German penalty area. It was a very deceptive kick. As the ball hovered in the box, Rossi, the opportunist, headed in and became the highest scorer (six goals) of the twelfth World Cup.

In an exemplary display of courage, the German goalkeeper, Schumacher, rushed yards out of his penalty area to foil Rossi next to the corner flag. The custodian got the ball under control from the Italian striker without using his hands and averted a dangerous situation.

Twentyfour minutes into the second half, Scirea and Orsini in a perfect display of passing—they touched the ball alternately as many as 12 times—brought the ball deep into German territory. They held on to the ball for a slightly long time waiting for one of their players to position himself at the top of the penalty box. Tardelli was the man who obliged and immediately dispatched a stiff grounder which beat a diving Schumacher. The ball hit the inside of the post before entering the net.

The Germans so very well known for their do-or die bids did not give in and fought till the very end. They

had a piece of consolation when they scored from a Breitner free-kick. The Germans pressed a little during the closing stages but without positive results and Italy had earned the cup, they last won in 1938.

As many as 33 fouls were given by the Brazilian referee. Seventeen of these were against Germany and sixteen against the Italians who, many people thought, were the rougher side on this day. The Germans earned five corners in the match and the Italians only two. The referee—and rightly so—ignored many minor infringements as most of the players indulged in acting. Nevertheless, referee Coelho booked Orsini and Conti of Italy and the Germans Dremmler and Stielike. Both the teams played with liberio—the Italians using Scirea and Stielike doing the job for the Germans. The man of the match was awarded to the Italian Mario Tardelli.

The sad look of resignation on the face of German skipper Karl-Heinz Rummenigge as he was substituted summed up the dejection in the German camp. For the Italians it was an unforgettable victory, a culmination of Enzo Bearzot's five-year battle to reach the top.

ITALY and West Germany are the two flag-bearers of European football and they have proved it again in the 1982 World Cup tourney but, while Italy certainly merited their victory, West Germany came through by the skin of their teeth and had the French penalty specialists to thank. Looking back over the years, it has been Italy who have

WORLD CUP



MATCH OF THE WEEK

THE French had put up a sterling performance in the second round of the World Cup. They pipped Austria by a solitary goal and then put paid to the hopes of Northern Ireland with a bloodless 4-1 victory. All this prompted one to give them a very good chance to put it across West Germany in the semi-finals. The French played their heart out with the desire to attack at all times of the match. In the final outcome, it was tenacity and the ability to fight till the very end which made the Germans emerge the winners.

France had their best opportunity to make their maiden appearance in a World Cup final and only have themselves to blame for ending up fourth best in Spain. The white-shirted Germans broke the ice in the 17th minute when Litkebraski scored after French goalkeeper Litton failed to make a clean save of a Klaus Fischer attempt. Ten minutes later, Bernd Foester committed a deliberate foul on Rocheteau inside the box and Platini made no mistake from the penalty spot. The French restored parity, and skipper Platini egged his players on. The second session did not change the score sheet and extra time had to be

resorted to. And by jove, what a memorable 30 minutes this was!

The French were rattled after Europe's Footballer of the Year Karlheinz Rummenigge was brought on when the Germans were down by two goals. The calculated German gamble of playing their captain who had a strained thigh muscle paid off. The Rummenigge magic had worked. The Germans were on level terms, the French dumbfounded, and for the first time in a World Cup the tie-breaker enforced. The French squandered the initiative in the tie-breaker after going into a 3-2 lead and the Germans were not going to slip up this time. One hundred and twenty minutes of football plus the tie-breaker and the two European teams had scored seven goals a piece. France went down in the sudden death but there were many who felt that the German goalkeeper Schumacher had moved before Maxime Bossis took the penalty. I watched the slow motion replay on television and there was no two ways about it—the French were the victims of poor supervision. Nevertheless, one cannot help but praise the German players and their shrewd coach Jupp Derwall for

coming back from a hopeless position to enter the World Cup final.

With the crowd behind them Alain Giresse put the French a goal ahead in the first few minutes of extra-time. To add to Germany's problems Tressor scored a wonderful goal. Even the most loyal German supporter could not have been very optimistic about a German recovery. In the second half of extra-time, the story was different with Rummenigge and then Fischer making the scorecard read 3-3. The French seemed to have lost their rhythm and one would not have been sur-

Klaus Fischer



prised if the Germans, at this stage of the match, went a goal ahead.

Rummenigge's inclusion during extra-time gave a lot more striking power to the attack and the skipper established German superiority also in the mid-field. The French, however, had very fluid movements throughout the match and, one feels, with the exception of the Brazilians were the best touch players in the tournament. Even the likes of Breitner, Fischer and Muller in the German defence could not dislodge the French artistry. Michel Hidalgo's men only have themselves to blame for not converting their territorial advantage into a goal-scoring one. The Germans need to be admired for their guts and tenacity which saw them through this cliff-hanger. One must not forget that another reason for the German success was the fact that they were taller and heavier than the slightly built French. All said and done, there were many who were really sorry that this ever-popular French team which came within the proverbial whisker of entering the World Cup final, had to be one among the many 'also rans'.



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CARBIDE



West German Manager Jupp Derwall encourages his boys—futile efforts

The set-piece situation

THE World Cup has brought up one very important aspect of the game which Indians will do well to learn. This is called the set-piece situation, where hours of daily practice brings perfection in the air of beating the opposition through decent. Take the case of a freekick from well outside the penalty area. While in India, one has seen just two or three variations in taking this, the World Cup showed several countries doing wonders with it. A direct kick would also not be taken directly, if the opposition expected it. There could be a pass to someone standing square or in front, or a lob behind the defence wall or even a move involving up to four players—all obviously knowing what they were to do before the final shot at goal was taken. This could involve several dummy runs by players other than the four participating in the move.

The corner kick was another situation which could be used to

great advantage, as long as several alternative were found. Even such an apparently innocuous thing as the throw anywhere near the opposing penalty area could be utilised to catch the defence on the wrong foot. These arts were perfected by the Europeans and the Latin Americans, though the Europeans came up with more variations. That is, with the exception of Brazil. Whereas every team studied video tapes of their opponents to discover the variations they used, none of them could really predict what the Brazilians would do. In a long tournament like the World Cup, there is the possibility of the opposition finding out the various alternatives used by a particular team. That is why the Brazilians could be termed the best, because they hardly ever repeated a set-piece manoeuvre. They didn't need to. All the players barring Serginho, were so good that they could change an apparent move at the last split second

done most for European football, but in the post-War years, West Germany have also done yeomen service to the game in the continent.

Italy were the only side to beat Argentina in the 1978 World Cup and have continued to dominate over all the South Americans since. In Argentina Paolo Rossi used to move from wing to wing, but now he has matured into an even finer player and can move from the wing to the centre. He has had a chequered career but he has never blazed a greater trail than he is doing in Spain. He was instrumental in beating Poland in the semi-final in Barcelona. The Poles started the match confidently and attacked in the first two minutes. But, thereafter, it was Italy who really called the shots. The first time they struck was in the 22nd minute when Polish left back Stefan Majewski appeared to have fouled Bruno Conti in a mid-air collision. But it seemed a doubtful decision to say the least. Giancarlo Antognoni floated the ball into the penalty area near the six yard box. Nbu, the Polish goalkeeper, did not come out, which allowed three Italians to swoop in. Among them it was Rossi who connected. Italy had been attacking quite well even before but Graziani and others wasted opportunities to score. The closest Poland came to scoring was in the 12th minute when Lato took a 45 degree turn before taking a shot which went wide.

The Italians were going great guns while Poland were beginning to feel the heat. Late in the first half, Ciolek and Skorobowski made two good attempts but they were foiled by Dino Zoff, the veteran Italian goalkeeper.

The Poles were playing without their star forward and the best bet against an ultra defensive side like Italy --Zbigniew Boniek, who had earned a suspension of one game by earning a booking twice in previous matches. Even so, they made a valiant attempt throughout the match to restore parity. But Italy made 16 attempts at scoring and managed to keep complete control of the midfield. Marino Tardelli and Cabrini were superbly manning the area. Marini particularly was impressive. In the 30th minute, he took the ball from Conti and moved up dribbling two players to keep to get a very good chance at scoring himself. But he missed the target.

Paolo Rossi was brought down six times and by half time Poland looked a beaten side, mainly because of the gruelling 100 degree temperature. But they fought gamely on until the 72nd minute, always hoping that an equaliser would come. But their finish was not good. Whenever they came up the entire Italian line-up was in their own area, including Rossi, who was defending quite well. Poland earned two corners and one

Man of the week

"IT is hard to believe a dumbblonded Pelé. They were the best team at Espana '82. We know Brazil, turn favourites might have returned home from Madrid with the World Cup had it not been for a memorable performance by the Italians, or should we say, Paolo Rossi. He stunned the Brazilians, the city of Madrid and millions of football lovers by notching up a hat trick to take his side into the semi-finals and his name on the front pages of every conceivable daily.

Only two men knew what the 25 year-old Rossi was capable of. They were the Italian team manager Herrera and coach Enzo Bearzot. The two refused to be put off by Rossi's poor form. After four matches in the World Cup, the Italian star had still not figured amongst the goal scorers and in fact was substituted 19 minutes from the end in the encounter against Peru. But then just when things were unfavourable, Rossi struck.

To prove that his performance in the match against the Brazilians was no flash in the pan, Rossi escorted his country into the finals with two superb goals against

Poland. The five goals which were netted in the last two ties by the Italians were the fireworks of the immaculate Rossi. Born in Tuscany, Rossi, the son of a weaver, laid the foundation for Italy to wrap up the final in Spain. He headed in the first of the three goals from a melee. Thus it was Rossi who aided his side to take back to Rome a trophy they had last won forty-four years ago. Unable to obtain the



transfer fee that Lanerossi Vicenza, his club, thought he was worth, they loaned him out to US Perugia for one season only, for a fantastic £300,000. The president of the Italian league resigned in protest.

Paolo Rossi is one of the most controversial of contemporary footballers. He along with Sepp Maier signed an Amnesty International petition in 1978 protesting against the torture and treatment of political prisoners.

The darkest patch in Rossi's career was his implication in a bribery scandal. Playing for Italy's Juventus Club, Rossi was bribed a mere 1,100 Liras by a Rome book-maker—one should remember that Rossi at this stage had a pay cheque of 400,000 Liras—to 'fix' and thus, draw a match against a club which Juventus could easily have beaten.

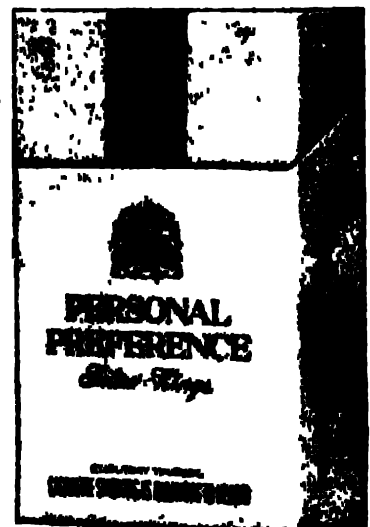
Rossi in combination with Roberto Bettiga his Juventus team-mate along with the power of Tardelli and Benetti in midfield and the assurance of the defenders was largely responsible for Italy's great show in the 1978 World Cup. Bearzot must have had Rossi in mind when he said, "We are ready for anyone, Brazil, Argentina, the lot." In

fact, Rossi came into the limelight in Buenos Aires, scoring three goals. Four years before going to Spain, Rossi was seriously injured. He had three cartilages removed from his knee.

The small but marvelously adroit Italian earned a two year suspension after his involvement in the bribery scandal temporarily bringing to a halt his international football career. It is at this stage that Rossi got married, and now promised to reform.

He had to rebuild the reputation he had made for himself in Argentina, because, after all, he was selected for the imaginary World XI after the 1978 World Cup. It was a difficult task.

Enzo Bearzot came in for a lot of criticism for persisting with Rossi, but was soon rewarded. The break in his career did not seem to affect him and the Italian striker had the distinction of scoring six goals in three matches, thereby becoming the top goal scorer in the World Cup. The Italian revival was complete and so was the Rossi Renaissance.



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in a duel with a
Czech player
Czech player



of them was a beautiful grounder which Zoff just managed to save. But the last nail in their coffin came in the 72nd minute. A little earlier, Graziani was injured in a tackle and had to be carried off on a stretcher. In his place came Altobelli and he changed the course of the game instantly. Three minutes after coming in, he received the ball from Cabrini and raced up from the half line for about 30 yards. Then he stopped and waited for the others to come. Suddenly, he let fly a brilliant

curling centre which beat the Polish defence and goalkeeper and dangled for a brief tantalising moment at the edge of the goal. Rossi, who was in the penalty area, swooped in and sent in a header that had a goal written on it from the start.

This was a match which proved that a good defence alone cannot win matches for a team. There has to be tremendous speed and ball control to go with it. In this sphere Italy were far better than Poland and fully deserved this victory.

ALICANTE is a land of pleasure beaches, temperate climate and the good Mediterranean life. Hardly the place for the second-most important match of the World Cup. But here it was that the French, who had climbed to the peak of professional excellence, met their Waterloo. Poland, coming out of hibernation as it were, after a similar surge midway through the competition, almost sneaked past the arrogant French to gain third spot in the world.

However, the game began well for the French. Their quality to penetrate any defence was clear from the start despite the fact that they replaced goalkeeper Ertori, Battiston, Giresse, Genghini and above all Platini.

Forty-five seconds after the 13th minute, Rene Girard scored with a grounder. The ball beat new goalkeeper Castanedo, struck the bar and went in. Thereafter a veritable French blitz followed, but numerous chances were missed. One dangerous feature here was that whenever Poland counter-attacked, they caught the French defence napping. In these Polish endeavours, Zbigniew Boniek's inclusion was the key factor. After missing a self-made chance running through the middle, Boniek made amends in the 41st minute when he broke through to score with an angular shot which hit the second post and went in. For the next four minutes, Poland were in full cry. And they scored on the 48th minute mark, took the lead. Castanedo put the flight of a flutter and Polish left-back Stefan Matiewski finished a brilliant header in the net.

Although France tried to come back with a bang in the second session, it was Poland who struck again. It was in the 19th second when it hit in Rumen Wogjicki centred and Jani Lupu was scored with a beautiful bullet with the left foot, scoring a goal.

France attacked repeatedly thereafter and finally Graziani, who was removed shortly thereafter, made a ball for Alain Giresse to score. That was in the 27th minute, after which Didier Six came on to strengthen the attack. But despite enjoying territorial supremacy, France could not score. The frenzy was so high that one of France's reserves, who was warming up on the sidelines, ran on to the pitch at one juncture to take the ball and place for a free kick to be taken by the Poles. This kind of situation is unheard of in any competition.

Ultimately, however, it was the immaturity of the French and their inability to concentrate and fight that lost for them not only this match but the semi-final against West Germany—after leading 3-1, in extra time.



Italy's celebrations at the Troisi Fountain after their team upset Brazil to advance to the semi-finals



PROFILES

THE year was 1958 and the arena the seventh World Cup tournament in Sweden. A superstar burst upon the world soccer scene — Edson Arantes do Nascimento Pele, a man who was destined to create a unique chapter for himself in the history of the game. His talent was a divine gift his motherland the cradle of Latin American soccer and his ambition a ceaseless pursuit of the impossible. The result was "If you ask me who is the best full back in Brazil I will say Pele. If you ask who is the best wing half I would say Pele. Who is the best winger? Pele. If you ask me who is the best goal keeper, probably I would have to say Pele. He is like no other player. He is to Brazilian football what Shakespeare is to English literature" — Joao Saldanha, former manager of the Brazil national team.

Has there ever been any other player in the history of soccer who can stand comparison to such a marvel of a sportsman? Probably not. The only man whose abilities have often been measured against those of Pele is Alfredo di Stefano, the celebrated Argentinian footballer whose capacity for match control was

The Shakespeare of soccer

amazing. The other features he had in common with the Brazilian master were unflappability, superb ball control, marvelous anticipation and capacity for reading the game fast. Nevertheless, for all this, the great Argentinian maestro was not quite on a par with Pele. The unique features that distinguished the wonderman of Brazil from all the other all-time greats were his gymnastic grace and liquid fluency which always made him an enigma to his contemporaries. There were Didi, Garrincha, Vava, Zagallo — all dexterous exponents of footballing skills. But Pele appeared like a meteor to outshine all his glamorous compatriots. Brazil won the World Cup for the first time in 1958 and it was Pele who clinched the issue for his country by scoring two invaluable goals in the final. A legend was born.

The next sensational show in the arena of World Cup was in 1970, the year Brazil made the Jules Rimet Cup their own. Pele was determined to avenge the deprivation of 1966, when he was deliberately kicked out of the tournament by Morais of Portugal

Brazil must reign supreme was his motto and he made that happen.



In fact, Pele's principal forte was his superb ball control. He was perhaps the most agile and skilful runner with the ball the game has ever known, the ball seeming to juggle between his feet, while he moved at even maximum speeds, like a natural appendage. And

to try to snatch the ball from him always meant being bewildered by a strange magic which ever baffled the soccer pundits who tried to figure out the secret of his virtuosity. Said Bobby Moore: "Sometimes you tackle him and you are convinced you have the ball. You have felt solid contact with it and you know it's yours. Then you look round he's ten yards past you and it's at his feet." The first time Moore had the experience, he thought it to be an accident. But there was surprise in store for him and gradually it dawned on him that incredibly he was doing it on purpose. Nothing is too outrageous for him.

It was a magic Pele himself never knew how he learnt. Therefore the only explanation he could provide was that of a devout Catholic: "I feel the greatest skill I have on the soccer field is the ability to make something out of nothing. Of course, you need balance, and speed of mind and body and strength. But there is something else, something God has given me, maybe some extra instinct for the game. Sometimes I can take the ball and no one can foresee any danger, and then in two or three seconds there is a goal. This is a talent that God gave me."



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Man of the week

WORLD CUP



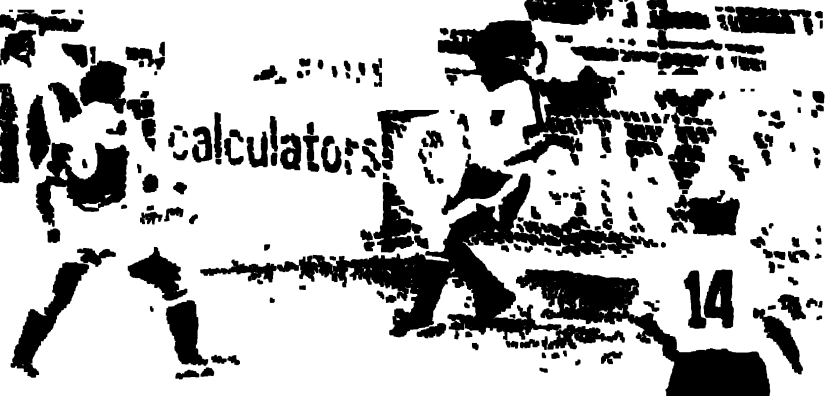
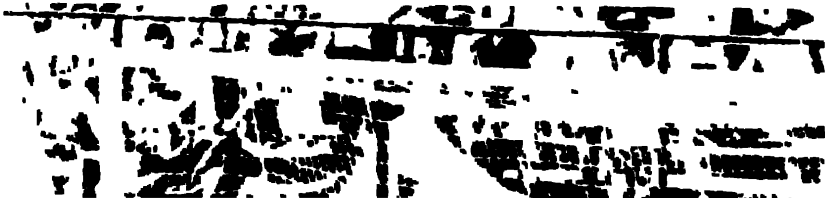


**Karl-Heinz Rummenigge
of Germany beats his
Chilean rivals to
head the ball**

COLORSPORT

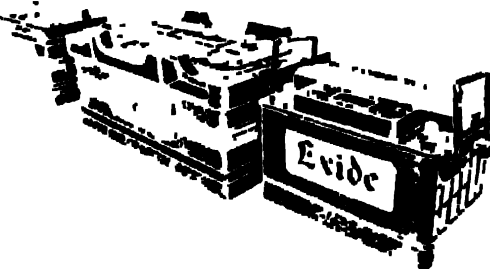
**PERSONAL
PREFERENCE**

WORLD CUP *Action Photographs*



ESPAÑA 82

(Clockwise from bottom left) Austria's Bruno Pezzey (centre) sees the ball being sent into the net by Northern Ireland's Billy Hamilton (not in pic), Poland's Stefan Majewsky (right) tries in vain to stop USSR's Oleg Blokhin, Spain's Jesus Zamora heads the ball past West German defender Uli Stielike to score a goal for his side



Performance.
That's what makes
us No.

1



Exide

Still keeps going
when the rest have stopped

WORLD CUP

RECORDS

The break-through

NO German side had ever beaten England in World Cup encounter till 1970. As a matter of fact, no German national side had ever emerged triumphant against an England side in a representative tournament since 1901. But the stranglehold was finally broken at the Mexico World Cup when England lost to West Germany by a solitary goal.

Germans clash

JUNE 1974. A most extraordinary clash took place. Never before had East and West Germany met on a football field. The match was a nightmare for security organisers and at one stage it seemed as though guns would outnumber supporters' pennants. To add to the clamour of the fans throughout the game was a new sound: there had never been a helicopter patrolling the sky overhead.

The first to fail dope test

THE first man to fail a doping test was Ernst Jean Joseph, centre forward in the Haitian

squad at the 1974 World Cup. Despite their 3-1 defeat at the hands of Italy, they were being hailed as heroes but their rejoicing was rudely cut short after Joseph was required to have a dope test. The latter proved positive, but the player insisted that the only pills he had taken were those that had been prescribed for his asthma. After the tests proved conclusive, the unfortunate Joseph was dragged out of the hotel by officials travelling with the team and received a severe beating. He was confined to his room and flown home the next morning.

Brothers playing together

THE first instance of brothers playing together in a World Cup came in 1954 when Fritz and Ottmar Walter played along side one another on West Germany's winning line-up. Twelve years later, came the Charlton brothers Bobby and Jackie who helped England win the trophy on home ground in 1966. Then, in 1978 came the Dutch pair of Robbie and Rene Renserbrink, but for the first time the pre-

of brothers was not enough to help the side lift the trophy.

The quickest penalty

NO World Cup final ever began in such sensational fashion as that between hosts West Germany and neighbours Holland. Shortly after kickoff, the Dutch earned a penalty and Neeskens converted it as the stadium erupted. However, the Dutch failed to maintain any kind of pressure thereafter and they ultimately lost 1-2 to their opponents.

The worst clash

THE most notorious clash in World Cup history was the one involving Brazil and Hungary which was later to be dubbed as "The Battle of Bern". It ended with 12 free kicks, two

penalties, four cautions and three send-offs. But that was not the end of the story. After the final whistle, the Brazilians invaded the Hungarian dressing room and picked up the tempo once again. But this time, it was fists cuffs and not football. The net result? The first-aid people were kept busy attending to the casualties.

Bomb explosion

PRIOR to the start of the 1978 World Cup in Argentina it was found that someone had managed to smuggle a bomb into the Press Centre at Buenos Aires, despite the incredible security surrounding the entire tournament. However, the bomb exploded as it was being removed, killing one policeman and wounding another.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

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NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

THIRD CORNHILL TEST

We gave India no chance

Man of the Match, IAN BOTHAM, sends his observations about the third Test and feels that India were unlucky to find England in good form and on a pitch that gave no inkling of a decision. The series was won by England and, thus, the humiliation in India avenged.

IT was not like the fog we had in Calcutta, but a heavy cloud cover, leading to very bad light, which curtailed play on the fourth day.

And made it even more difficult to bring about a decisive outcome to the third Test. This kind of poor visibility is not uncommon in England, but it transpired at the wrong moment, and that cost us a vital two and three quarter hours.

Of course, the way Kapil and Kiri played en route to setting up a sixth wicket record stand of 130 we would have been denied a victory in any case. After the loss of time, everything, in fact, depended on us obtaining a breakthrough, before tea and we put everything into it. Derek Pringle dropped a sharp return chance and with that reprieve granted, Kapil blazed away to 97 which carried India to within 17 runs of saving the follow on, which Kiri ensured they did. The latter also kept wickets very well in the series, though not up to his standards at The Oval.

And once that task was performed, it was virtually a dead match. I know

people are saying, we should have hurried up, and declared earlier. But neither Allan Lamb nor Chris Tavare are fully established, and a failure for either of them, as indeed for David Gower, could have spelt danger to their respective careers. In any case, our aim was to make absolutely sure that India did not win the match. Wouldn't Sunny have done the same if he was one up in the series?

All the same, when India batted yesterday, Vishy played beautifully, and that after you had lost three wickets for 40 odd, thanks to some great catching by Bob Taylor. Of course, among the batsmen dismissed, only one—Dilip Vengsarkar—was a fully recognised one, which proves another point: no matter how dramatic our approach, there was very little likelihood of us forcing victory. Moreover, in Test cricket you don't fool around. The repercussions of even one defeat can be severe, indeed.

So, just as much as India won the first Test last winter and retained the lead, we came up trumps at

Lord's and maintained the advantage.

Like I said in India, it would be a different story in England. But it must be admitted that the Indians have given an impressive account of themselves this summer, and there can be no better testimony to this than the fact that they took the Man of the Match awards in two of the Tests, while Kapil pipped me to the post for the Man of the Series prize.

As far as I am concerned there is no rivalry between me and Kapil—all this junk is a creation of the media. We are the best of friends, and I fully admire his talents, and hopefully, the feeling is mutual. In all the important innings he played against us, including the ones in the two one day matches, he did not fail once.

And his Test aggregate of 292 came in, I believe, just 272 balls. I feel he should be promoted in the batting, but here, I guess, Sunny has a problem because Kapil has to contend with a lot of bowling.

Another splendid player in your lineup is Sandeep Patil. He arrived



The players, Botham included, watch Gavaskar in pain.

Gavaskar is carried off—a vacation followed.

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Sunil Gavaskar



here after a poor series against us in India, and till the Old Trafford Test was struggling to get runs. But what a transformation it has been since I am, now, convinced that he should have been picked at Lord's. Class is bound to tell, and it was worth a gamble.

Yes, India today have the making of a very good side. In each of the Tests, they faced massive totals, yet went about the business of chasing these with a gay abandon. It requires courage and conviction to proceed in this manner. All you need, now, is two good bowlers, and you can give even the West Indians a run for their money.

It's a pity that the weather was so awful and the wickets loaded so heavily in favour of batsmen, for it was a rather attractive series and deserved better support from spectators. Perhaps, the bad publicity of the last tour played a hand in discouraging the crowds. Whatever the reason, they missed some really good cricket.

I SHALL remember my 208 at The Oval for a long time. This was my first double hundred in Tests and obviously, a milestone in my career and was very, very pleased with the way I played.

I have had a good series and to climax it with a 'big' innings was most satisfying. Each innings is different from another and I can remember knocks of thirties and forties which have gratified me immensely. But this effort was important because it involved concentration over a long period of time—the maturity you develop as you go along. As I said, I will not forget this innings easily and it fetched me, as you know, the Man of the Match award.

However, the fact that I got more than 400 runs in three outings in this series was not good enough to earn me the Man of the Series prize. That, perhaps, deservedly went to Kapil. Frankly, I do not worry about these. I just go out and play as best I can. Jim Laker felt that Kapil had played the better in attack and he was right, and so, the top honour was extended to him. He probably got a couple more wickets than I did, and especially his showing at Lord's, where he captured eight wickets, must have gone in his favour.

While on the subject of Kaps, it should be emphasised that it was he who again ensured that India did not lose the third Test, for with an innings of 97—a blistering exhibition—he carried his side to safety.

And once the follow on was saved, there was little or no chance of us forcing a win. The wicket, unfortunately, was much too flat. And it got slower and lower with the progress of the game.

There has been some criticism about the timing of Willis's declaration. Here, I am afraid I would strongly defend my skipper. We lost, if you remember, those vital 42 overs on the fourth day. And thereafter, the prospects of a decision rested entirely on us obtaining a breakthrough in the session before tea. But Derek Pringle, who bowled very well in this match, dropped a return catch from Kapil and chasing in on this, the latter tormented us no end. Kirmani, too, played an excellent defensive role and the two together put on a record 130 runs to blunt whatever edge there existed in our attack.

After this, we wanted to make sure we gave India no chance of winning the match. Wouldn't India have done the same had they been one up in the series? It has been said, that we could have declared early and, thus, attempted to win. But don't forget all we extracted in the 30 overs of serious cricket in India's second innings was the wicket of just one established batsman—Dilip Vengsarkar. And the way Vishy played, it



Geoff Cook turned one to leg during the first innings

SCORECARD INDIA VS ENGLAND AT THE OVAL

ENGLAND (First innings)

GEOFF COOK c Shastri b Patil 50
 CHRIS TAVARE b Kapil Dev 39
 ALLAN LAMB run out 107
 DAVID GOWER c Kirmani b Shastri 47
 IAN BOTHAM c Vishwanath b Doshi 208
 D HANDALL st Kirmani b Shastri 95
 D PRINGLE st Kirmani b Doshi 9
 P EDMONDS c (sub) Parkar b Doshi 14
 R TAYLOR lbw Shastri 3
 P ALLOTT c Yashpal b Doshi 3
 R G D WILLIS not out 1
 EXTRAS (5 lb 3 b 10 nb) 18
 TOTAL (all out) 594

(Second innings)

c Yashpal b Kapil Dev 8
 not out 75
 bowled Doshi 45
 c and b Nayak 45
 (6b 8 lb 4 nb) 18
 (for three wickets declared) 191

Fall of wickets 1 96 2 96 3 185 4 361 5 512 6 524 7 562 8 569 9 582

Fall of wickets 1 12 2 94 3 191

BOWLING

Kapil Dev	25-1-109-1	19-3-53-1
Madan Lal	26-8-69-0	11-6-17-0
Suru Nayak	21-5-66-0	53-0-16-1
S Patil	14-1-48-1	
Dip Doshi	46-6-175-4	19-5-47-1
Shastri	41-3-109-3	16-3-40-0

INDIA (First innings)

R SHASTRI c Botham b Willis 66
 D VENKATARAMAN c Edmonds b Botham 6
 G VISHWANATH lbw Willis 56
 YASHPAL SHARMA c Gower b Willis 38
 SANDEEP PATIL c sub b Botham 62
 S KIRMANI b Aliott 43
 KAPIL DEV c Aliott b Edmonds 97
 MADAN LAL c Taylor b Edmonds 5
 S NAYAK lbw Edmonds 11
 DILIP DOSHI not out 5
 SUNIL GAVASKAR did not bat
 EXTRAS (3b 5lb 13 nb) 21
 TOTAL (for nine wickets) 410

(Second innings)

c Taylor b Willis 0
 (3) c Taylor b Pringle 16
 not out 75
 not out 9
 (2) c Taylor o Pringle 6
 (3 lb, 2 no) 5
 (for three wickets) 111

Fall of wickets 1 21 2 134 3 135 4 232 5 248 6 378 7 394 8 396 9 410

Fall of wickets 1 0 2 18 3 43

BOWLING

R Willis	23-4-78-3	4-0-16-1
D Edmonds	19-2-73-2	4-0-12-0
P Aliott	24-4-69-1	4-1-12-0
Pringle	28-5-80-0	11-5-32-2
Edwards	35-2-11-89-3	13-5-34-0

Match drawn



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proved beyond doubt that there wasn't a hope

Anyhow, to touch on the earlier happenings, I felt, Allan Lamb played magnificently. He was, sadly run out, as a result of a misunderstanding. But he is a class player and should do very well against Pakistan and Australia.

Derek Randall, when he visited India with Tony Greig's side, was, I believe, very popular with the crowds. And those who enjoyed his presence, and indeed his antics, will be happy to note that he's back among the runs, albeit against India.

To a certain extent, our innings was helped by some indifferent catching by the Indians. And it occurred to me that the slips might have been standing a little too deep. As for the bowling, there was certainly a case to try out the seamers while the ball was hard and in the given conditions. But Dilip Doshi when he came on, turned the ball appreciably and so did Ravi Shastri on the odd occasion. Having said that, of course, losing the toss for the third time running must have been quite heartbreaking. Sunny had better practice his 'calling' and 'tossing'.

Other than that, I think India were unlucky to find most of us in pretty good nick and with the advantage of playing at home, we were unlikely to let go of the initiative.

We felt that with the best batsman of India out of the reckoning, we had a fair chance of bowling India out cheaply. The psychological pressure of chasing a total like 594 can sometimes be overwhelming and we thought, India might miss Sunny in the circumstances. But how mistaken we were.

Ravi Shastri opening the innings, played marvellously well, weathering the storm and there by putting India on the road to a respectable score. I think, Ravi is a promising cricketer, who could end up as a very useful opener and spin bowler one day. I visualise him being the sort of anchor man Chris Tavare is to us today.

With him, Vishy realised 113 for the second wicket. Here is a superb little player, consistent, and an absolute asset to India. And it was good to see him remain unbeaten on a fluent 75 in the second innings, apart from his 56 in the first.

There was, of course, a slight controversy during his first knock, when we twice appealed for catches—once by the wicketkeeper and the other time by first slip—but these were disallowed by Dickie Bird. We felt, we had him at least once, but Vishy had doubts, and since the umpire agreed with him, he had every right to stay. Ironically, he was not too happy about being given out leg before soon after.

Then came Sandeep and he looks better every time I see him. As usual, he put forward a very correct de-

Chris Tavare bowled

fence and interspersed this with cuts, pulls and drives of great power and control. Eventually, he mistimed a hook and our substitute, Neil Taylor, took a brilliant catch at long leg. Incidentally, I also got Vengsarkar with a shorter ball, but caught at forward short leg.

Regarding Sandeep, looking back on the series, I am convinced India should have gambled with him at Lord's. He is very hard to bowl to. And all the stories I had been hearing about his display in Australia have been proved true.

We could not restrict India to less than 395—they got 410—but Bob Willis bowled a couple of very good spells, and in one such burst removed Ravi and Vishy in quick succession. We had problems during the Indian innings in that Derek Randall was out with a hamstring, and Phil Edmonds was hammered by a similar ailment. But the latter on a wicket responding to a bit of spin by then polished off the Indian venture to finish with three wickets, as did Bob.

The approach of Allan Lamb and Chris Tavare in the second innings



has come in for a bit of criticism. They were, perhaps, a bit slow in their run gathering. But at the same time, it is important for both to keep their places intact. One failure and they could be left out. Players like Mike Gatting are waiting in the wings, getting plenty of runs in the County games and one, I suppose, has to be vigilant.

But I understand the feelings of the media, and my commiserations got out to the Indians. They have acquitted themselves with credit this summer, particularly in the Tests, and but for that one failure at Lord's—when I thought we bowled exceedingly well—they would have had nothing to mourn about.

One last word. I was aggrieved about the fact that it was one of my shots that rendered Sunny *hors de combat*. It has been said that as captain he should not have stood in such a suicidal position, and there is possibly some wisdom in this view, but I believe a skipper should lead from the front. And that is what Sunny was doing. He'll be back soon, and as prolifically as ever.

◊◊ I don't believe a man has to be
heard to be seen.
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that's personal.
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having to say a word...



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CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Youngsters impress

CHANDAN SINGH, the former Olympian footballer who also represented both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan in the Fifties, analyses the crucial match between the two arch rivals

It has been a long time since I watched a match in this football loving city. The game between East Bengal and Mohun Bagan at no moment rose to any great heights. I was pleased at the high spirit of competition the game was played in but disappointed with the lack of effort on the part of both teams to play purposeful football.

It has been my privilege to play in a team which had the genius Mewal Das as striker in the early Fifties. What I am trying to get at is that the game of Calcutta and, in fact, Indian football in general is not shooting. This is what struck me the most when I went down to the Eden Gardens on that typical Calcutta afternoon to watch the red and yellows take on the Federation Cup Champions Mohun Bagan.

Eden Gardens is known to have a turf which is easily susceptible to rain. The ground on the 'big day' was heavy and it was quite surprising to note that most of the players used boots which either had rubber studs or those with very small studs. Even a man with the experience of Shyam Thapa played the 70 minute match with rubber-soled boots and like many of his other team mates found it very difficult to keep his balance

on the slippery surface.

With the top players away doing national duty many young up and coming footballers have been given the opportunity to get a break. Not all of them have made full use of this wonderful present. This was the season when forwards, and in fact all footballers, could cross the bridge from an 'also ran' to the flowing river of stardom.

Amal Dutta's men right from the beginning of the match looked the better team. They got the first real chance of scoring when a Kartick Sett centre came on a platter to Akbar who headed out. Thereafter it was a story with one central theme—do everything but do not score. If Indian football wants to put itself on the map they must learn to convert half chances into goals.

With the exploits of Paolo Rossi and Karl Heinz Rummenigge putting into the shade the mite of an Arup Das and an Amirava Mukherjee, the build up to the 'big match' was on a slightly low key.

On paper—and only that—the maroon and greens were much the stronger side. However, the irony of it all was that it was their experienced players who let the team down. Battle scarred Linkman

Gautam Sarkar contributed very little to this match. Midway through the first half, he put through Amirava Mukherjee, but the latter was intelligently brought down by Biswajit Bose inside the penalty area. The televising of the World Cup matches had its influence on this incident. In the normal circumstances of Calcutta football, both players and crowd alike would have exercised their vocal chords to claim a penalty. However, I feel Biswajit's tackle was viewed in the right light by referee Dilip Sen.

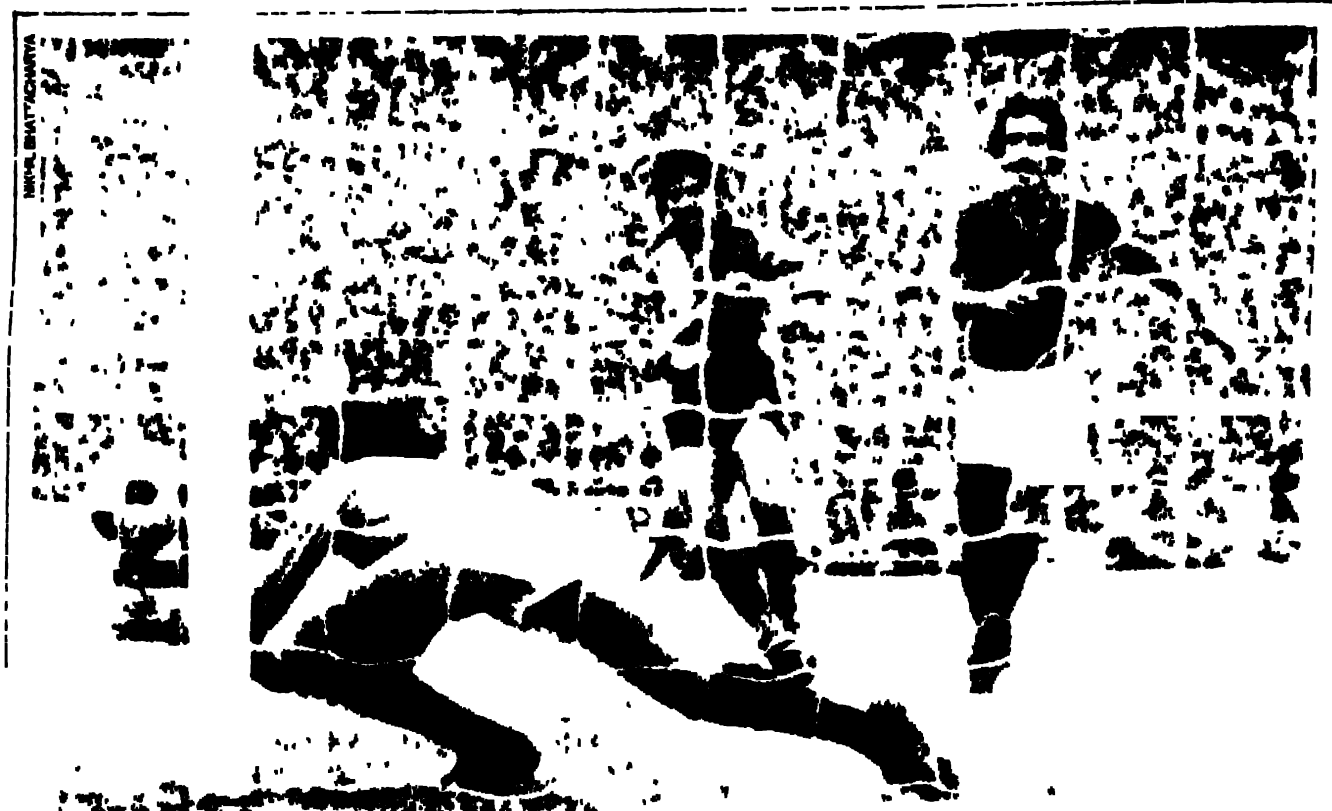
One person who would like to forget this encounter as soon as possible is Mohun Bagan stopper Subrata Bhattacharya. I have always maintained that self confidence is one of the most important traits of a good footballer. But what I do not advocate is over confidence which is detrimental to both the player concerned and the side. Subrata on this day was complacently personified. There were countless occasions when he duly-dalloped inside the Bagan penalty area, crossed the ball right across his own goalmouth and virtually did everything which would make even a novice blush. In the 21st minute, Bhattacharya gave Arup Das a chance to shoot at the Mohun Bagan goal, and it was only the alertness of blue-jerseyed Shivaji Banerjee which saved the situation. This, coupled with the total bottling up of Surjit Sengupta by the East Bengal defence and the pedestrian performance of Gautam Sarkar, punctured the balloon of Mohun Bagan's morale.

It is the defence that plays an important role in not only negating the opponents' moves but also setting up constructive plays. Mohun Bagan defenders Subrata and Gouranga Banerjee, could not even play a destructive role and the question of them trying to initiate moves was conspicuously absent in their

East Bengal scores the all important goal through Kartick Sett (extreme right)



ARABIND BANERJEE



Arup Das misses the easiest of chances from close while Subrata Bhattacharya looks on

repertoire. The East Bengal defence had a lot more discipline in their ranks and did not play the match with their noses up in the air. There is a lot more stress on defence in modern football than in the days when I wore boots and preventing goals was the topmost priority of all teams.

The best scoring chance came Mohun Bagan's way five minutes before the teams swapped ends. Ex-Indian Junior captain Denis William, son now trying his level best to make a name for himself in Calcutta football, despatched a left-footer eight yards from the East Bengal goal. It was the only noteworthy attempt at goal by Mohun Bagan in the first half and the East Bengal custodian Tapas Chakravarty did well to pluck it from the air.

It would not have come as a surprise to me if East Bengal were up by two goals to one in the first half. They certainly enjoyed the major share of the exchanges and with Milar Bose and skipper Amalraj putting in sterling performances, the red and yellow shirts controlled the mid-field. The chunky Mihir Bose was, in my opinion, the player of the whole match. It was he who put Kartick Sett through on the left flank. The latter did well to then find Arup Das whose floater was headed by Akbar, but the ball unfortunately hit the crossbar.

I know it sounds funny, but it was the ten minutes of half-time which were the most useful. I renewed old bonds of friendship with some of my team-mates of the Helsinki Olympic

Games. My eyes caught sight of the Ranji Stadium. It was uninhabited except for the odd policeman. My heart, even though so used to the rugged hills of Darjeeling, where I used to coach, was pained as the horror of the August 16 episode was dug up from my mind.

One hoped that the lectures of Pulk Biswas back volleys

coaches Amal Dutta and Sanjar Banerjee would revitalize their respective teams. Unfortunately, the football dished out in the second half, once again, was sub-standard. The players in junior teams always strive hard to give of their best. But as soon as they sign up for a Big Team, the glamour gets the better of



their game. In this match it was the younger crop of players—East Bengal's Pulak Biswas and Tapash Chakraborty and Mohun Bagan's Krishnendu Roy—who impressed me the most. In my opinion, it was Krishnendu whom Mohun Bagan were gambling with. He used to overlap very often and with Gauranga Banerjee and Subrata playing like children the responsibility of holding the Mohun Bagan fort fell on Satyajit Ghosh.

A few minutes into the second half Surjit was brought down by Pulak and there was a school of thought who felt that a penalty award would not be unjustified. I, for one, feel that the tackle did not have dishonourable intentions and the referee was perfectly correct in not awarding a penalty.

As the game progressed on its weary, boring and tedious way the younger East Bengal side began to dominate because they were a fitter lot. Physical fitness is as important to football as good cards are to a bridge player and this was amply demonstrated by East Bengal slowly but surely began to control proceedings. They have been playing better football this season and were bubbling with confidence after their win over Mohammedan Sporting, a fortnight ago.

Mohun Bagan got their only good look at their opponents' goal when Gautam Sarkar took a freekick awarded after Amitava was brought down by Pulak. Amitava Mukherjee was more obsessed in getting his name into the score book and thus played selfish football, forgetting that there were another 10 men in his side. Nevertheless, Gautam who has scored so many a goal from freekicks was deprived this time when his goal bound bullet was saved by the tall East Bengal custodian.

Dutta at last managed to exercise his authority when a fast firing Akbar was replaced by Subir Sarkar. This move soon paid rich dividends. Sarkar was unfairly tackled by Subrata Bhattacharya who now seems to relish the fact that he is dubbed a rough player. The untappable Mihir took the resultant freekick after which Balaji Mukherjee floated the ball into the Mohun Bagan penalty area. In keeping with the fitness of things and the total lack of co-ordination and effort to play constructive soccer a melee resulted. Gauranga Banerjee miskicked Kartick Sengupta's shot, the ball entered the top left-hand corner of the net and East Bengal supporters burst into applause and the Eden Gardens resounded with cheers.

East Bengal had at last put it across Mohun Bagan and their cup of joy overflowed. They were undoubtedly deserving winners against a Mohun Bagan team who seemed to have forgotten the art of football this Saturday afternoon.

Unsporting Sporting

MOHAMMEDAN S C. After a harrowing experience the previous week, the next two engagements were no better. Although the home side prevailed over Kumartuli the performance lacked lustre. The first half saw some action but the latter was played aimlessly. Both Sporting's goals were netted in a span of twelve minutes when Kumartuli defender Basu Choudhury failed to head, Uttam Chakraborty managed to nod in Robin Das's lob off the second bounce. The second goal saw some of the old touch of Majid Jamshid floated the ball and dashing Majid followed up with a powerful left-footer which crashed into the net.

Kumartuli coach Amrita Chakraborty said after the match "This was our thirteenth match and we kept to the 4-2-4 system. My medios failed and this is why the opponents took advantage. I won't say that the goals scored came through fine movements. In fact, they were stray goals. I think we played better than they did on the ground. They were emphasising too much on head play."

Mohammedan S C coach too was not very satisfied with his team's display. Why the team is performing inconsistently—and shabbily too—leaves everyone in doubt. One wonders whether the players are dissatisfied or is there just too much bungling. As has been said earlier

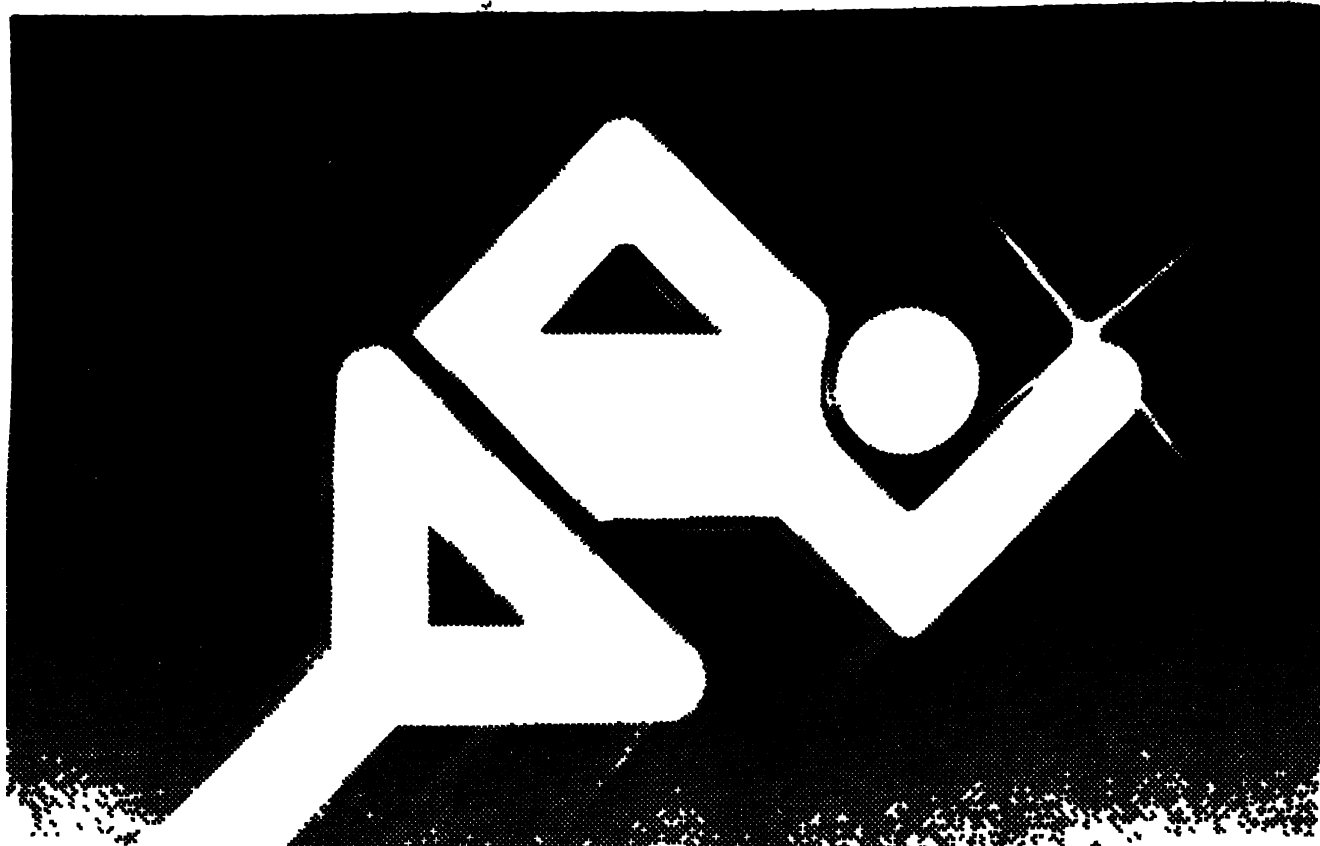
that if things do not improve the team will soon be in for a big shock. And sure enough things came to a climax in their match against the formidable Railway F C.

Mohammedan S C had their chances—a story being repeated once too often. But what excuse can they make when after conceding a genuine goal they helped in conjuring up the violence of the August 16 episode. Railway F C seems to have earned the wrath of the Big Three already. This is the only side that can face the three on equal terms. But instead of getting the applause of the crowd for their fighting qualities RFC is showered with brickbats. Against Mohun Bagan there was chaos when RFC held them for the third year in succession and then against the black-and-whites all hell was let loose.

Fanatics turning violent if their favourite team is either held or beaten has become the order of the day. In fact, the junior side's brilliant performance in the fanatics version is a crime and the junior side involved must be prosecuted. Undoubtedly, Pradip Nag's inept supervision in the encounter led to the home side taking advantage of his leniency. Had he dealt with the players of both sides sternly things might not have been that bad. Then again, Mohammedan S C is never comfort-

Pem Dorji lands one on linesman D K Bhattacharyya





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able when they confront RFC. The scene was a repeat of the 1979 encounter, but this time with a difference.

A back pass from Alope Mukherjee saw Sanjib Dey move in to strike home leaving goalkeeper Nasir Ahmed agape. Immediately a couple of home players protested to the referee on the flimsy grounds that it was an off side goal. But Pradip Nag stuck to his verdict. There was some jostling and suddenly Jamshid rushed to linesman D K Bhattacharjee and fisted him on the face. It was a clear goal and the linesman by no means waved the flag for off side. The green galleries erupted and missiles flew towards the RFC players. As if Jamshid's blow was not enough, Pem Dorji landed another blow to the linesman. There were more brickbats. The game was suspended and the referee sought police help. The police were passive but went into action immediately after Pradip Nag's plea. The stands were cleared. The violence began from the southern ramparts and a little later a section of the members stand joined the fray. Surprising this, but it is believed that many 'members' helped disrupt proceedings. Because of the few 'intruders' the members present had to pay the price of police action.

When all the players were huddled together on the centre of the field the police began a pitched battle with the crowd on the southern side. Referee Nag waited for things to cool down before resuming the game. "I tried my best to resume the match as there was sufficient time and light. But it was impossible to do so as there were so many bricks scattered all over the ground. And clearing it would have taken time. It is sad indeed that such an incident occurred following the goal. There is no second thought about the goal and the linesman did not wave for off side. Just as I had blown the whistle the linesman moved towards the centre and that is indicative enough. It was a clear goal. The way some home players acted with the linesman was disgraceful. They were just trying to force him into saying that the goal was scored from an offside position," said a tensed Pradip Nag, adding, "Both the teams wanted to resume play. Majid wanted to continue the game but it was not possible because of the bricks on the ground and teargas fumes still in the air. After waiting for 15 minutes I abandoned the game."

Mohammedan S C officials complained about the police action on the members and officials alike.

EAST BENGAL: So far the main reason for the home team's indifferent performances has been lack of understanding and co-ordination between their half-liners and the forwards, as a result of which East



Kartick Sett (23) being embraced by Amalraj and Tapan Das after scoring against Kalighat

Bengal have always found it difficult to maintain rhythm in their attacks. Naturally, they had to bank on individual skill, which also was not much in evidence. Whenever their link-men have played their roles well East Bengal enjoyed complete dominance over the game and wreaked havoc on their rival defenders without much difficulty.

And that was precisely the case with the big team when they reg-

istered a facile victory over Kalighat. Most of their moves originated from the halfline and were carried to the opponent danger zone by the front-liners very fast. Moreover, time and again the half-liners themselves rushed upfield to put even more pressure on the Kalighat defenders, who consequently found themselves in a hopeless situation, outnumbered by the East Bengal players.

The results were immediate. In the

very second minute East Bengal got their first goal through Amalraj. It was the skipper again who paved the way for the second goal scored by Kartick Sengupta in a spectacular fashion. Amalraj forwarded an accurate through pass which Kartick shot home after dribbling past two Kalighat defenders.

In fact, Kartick was in action right from the beginning, always trying to create openings mainly through dribbling and occasionally by scheming swift moves in co-ordination with the other East Bengal frontliners and the Kalighat team simply could not keep pace with them.

On the other hand, the Kalighat forwards, unable to make much headway into the East Bengal penalty area, resorted to taking long range shots towards the goal and quite

account of themselves, scoring only one goal. The goal, scored by Surajit Sengupta, was an opportunistic one and came in the second half. For all this they had only themselves to blame. Right from the beginning they kept missing easy chances when the forwards kept tumbling in front of the goalmouth.

The first half, more or less, belonged to Mohun Bagan. The first chance came their way as early as the fourth minute when from a centre by Denis Williamson from the left flank, the ball went to Krishanu Dey who had only the goalkeeper in front of him. But hastily he shot straight into the custodian's hands. Two minutes later, Krishnendu Roy, who was playing well since the start of the league, overlapped and gave a ball to Surajit on the right flank.

the change of ends and got the only goal of the match in the tenth minute. From a freekick by Gauranga Banerjee the ball went to left wing-back Dulal Sen, who tried to control the ball. But Surajit was there. He snatched the ball and gently placed the ball into the net. After that, Sporting Union twice came close to scoring but Amit Dey failed to take a powerful shot from close and then Biren Das took his time and Satyajit cleared the ball to safety.

In the Mohun Bagan defence, as already mentioned Krishnendu and Satyajit played well. Subrata Bhattacharya was sometimes beaten by speed and when he went up to help his forwards, he could hardly do anything of note. Gautam Sarkar, in the halfline was not his usual self and his partner, Sujas Bera, with his



Surajit Sengupta scores the only goal against Sporting Union

NIRMA BHATTACHARYA

expectedly, most of them ballooned over the mark without creating even a semblance of danger. However, in the 28th minute of the second half Kalighat got a golden opportunity to score when the East Bengal custodian tumbled. A Krishnendu Sengupta shot and Biswajit Bose made a goalkeeping save.

However, the blame did not rest squarely on the goal. Rather it resulted from a defence lapse which the Kalighat strikers tried their best to cash in on.

A few minutes later East Bengal added one more goal to their first half score and proved that they were fully prepared for the crucial fight ahead.

MOHUN BAGAN The match against Sporting Union was their last before the crucial tie against East Bengal. But the home team gave a very poor

Surajit dribbled past a couple of defenders and tried to do the same with the goalkeeper. But in trying to overdo his dribbling act, missed the opening.

Sporting Union also tried to go into the attack and once a piledriver from Biren Das, from outside the box, flew over the crosspiece. Biren Das, along with Mridul Banerjee kept the Mohun Bagan defence on their toes and tried to penetrate into the Bagan area but their efforts were foiled by Krishnendu and Satyajit Ghosh, who played a safe game.

In the first half itself, Mohun Bagan got quite a few openings, but they were thwarted by their forwards. Twice captain Shyam Thapa failed to utilise his famous volleys and once Surajit hit straight into the defenders' legs from close.

After a barren first half, Mohun Bagan kept exerting pressure after

limitations, tried hard. But the forward line was totally off. "My players failed to keep the ball to themselves, that they should have done in this match. And to add to their own misery they kept missing open chances," said the coach Sankar Banerjee.

From the Sporting Union side, the player who caught the eye the most was then linkman Alok Das. He moved all over the field and kept his forwards busy with some fine passes. At times he also fell back to help the defence. "We could have easily drawn the match. That was a gift goal because Dulal could have easily cleared the ball. But I am satisfied with the performance of my players, because they fought on equal terms with their renowned rivals," said the coach Dilip Pal.

SUBHASH SARKAR, SARAJIT DEB & SUPRAKASH GHOSAL

Destroying evidence

WHENEVER there are violent incidents in the Calcutta Maidan, Press photographers fall victim to the fury of the mob. Stones are thrown at them, attempts are made to snatch their instruments and even they are assaulted mercilessly when they try to resist. This has become quite customary in the three enclosed grounds of the city. Only a few days ago, when the players of a big club manhandled one of the linesmen, violence broke out in the stands with the supporters of the big team hurling missiles indiscriminately

Maidan musings

into the ground and, thus injuring a number of police officials. Suddenly their wrath turned towards the Press cameramen who were sitting near the sidelines. In no time started a heavy shower of bricks and stones, with some spectators crying at the top of their voices that if they took photographs they would have to face dire consequences.

But undaunted, the photographers went on discharging their duty, taking snaps of some players of the big club beating the linesman

right and left. That added fuel to the flame. They realised that the photographs would appear in all the dailies next morning. Disturbed by the thought, the crowds vowed to wreak vengeance on them when the opportunity would come their way. Suddenly they got hold of one photographer and did not hesitate to give vent to their anger. The luckless cameraman was beaten up just as a pick-pocket is done in the Calcutta streets, with blows landing on his body from all directions. What are the motives

that egg people on to indulge in such condemnable acts? No acceptable explanation can be thought of—but the fact that they do so with only one purpose—not to allow the truth to be known. Will their efforts be successful?

World Cup hangover

NIGHTLONG football—something unheard of in Calcutta. But with the greatest show of soccer on nothing was impossible. The crucial matches of the World Cup were beamed far away from Spain and the antenna-boasters of the metropolis spent sleepless nights with eyes glued to their TV sets. The days were full of hard work, and the mornings ensuing did not promise holidays either. But who cares? Soccer is soccer, nothing can stand in its way. All the more, it is World Cup, something of once-in-a-lifetime quality. Therefore, let there be sleepless nights and dozed-off workdays in offices.

People went to work with red eyes and frequently yawning mouths, announced their inability to work, minutes after arriving at their offices and proposed that the day be spent recollecting those dramatic moments on the screens of their TV sets. Oh Paolo Rossi, what a great player he is. And the German goalie Schumacher—brilliant, brilliant—the way he saved the penalty kick during the tie-breaker. It was simply unbelievable. But didn't he move a bit before the shot was taken? Perhaps, he did. But then the referee was quite close to the scene. He surely would have noticed it.

Thus went the discussions and exchange of expertise. Nothing wrong—Calcutta is reputed as the most soccer-loving city in the world. Only files piled up rapidly on the tables



ALOK KUMAR

Not a pampered lot

One of the reasons why umpires are scarce is the fact they are paid a negligible amount for supervising league and other local matches. One has got to be a very keen enthusiast to umpire for one, two, three or more days in the scorching sun under the strain of tremendous concentration. While the players are now a pampered lot, the umpires are, unfortunately, treated with contempt both by players and officials. This is a sad state of affairs in this country. The time has come when it is no longer possible for umpires to supervise matches only for 'love' of sport but it has got to be made worthwhile for them so that they willingly wear the white coats. It is doubly essential because players get at least a part of the game under the shade of the pavilion roof while the poor umpires have to stand for the entire duration of the match without getting any rest. As a fellow journalist has said somewhere "Gird up their loins and make the life

Illustration by Subrata Ganguly



worthy of the labour.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has taken positive steps to improve the lot of the Test umpires. But they deserve still better remuneration keeping in mind the fact that Test stars pick up about Rs 15,000 from every Test they play.

In order to nurture talent, the Board has got one chief national coach and five zonal coaches. This is laudable. On the similar lines, the Board should appoint one chief national umpire and five zonal umpires to organise seminars, clinics and search for prospective candidates to stand the strain of the umpiring. This is of great importance because the umpire is one person, who can make or mar the game.

The Board should also co-opt retired Test umpires on the umpiring committee instead of depending on non-technical personnel, who do not have a good concept about laws and conventions. The Board, an affluent

body, will do an immense good to cricket if they provide as much importance to umpires' reports for and against players as they do to captains' confidential reports on umpires. Unless this is done the acts of indiscipline will continue to mount unabated. The time is now ripe for the Board to act before the situation gets out of their hands.

In the recently-concluded India-England Test series one of the experienced umpires was dramatically changed following protests made by the England team. Not many cricket followers in this country or in England are aware that the umpire was changed more because of Sunil Gavaskar's complaint than because of the protest lodged by the England team. This was confirmed to me by one of the senior Board officials at New Delhi on the eve of the Test match.

Here are some of the problems. Q: In reply to A team's 180, B side

were 180 for nine wickets. In trying to deliver the ball, it slips out of the bowler's hand and goes to point. The striker, in a frenzy, starts to take a run. But the fielder picks up the ball and throws. One of the batsmen is run out. What will be the result of the match?

A: If the ball comes to rest before crossing the opposite wicket, the umpire, as per rules, will declare 'ball not delivered' and ask the bowler to deliver the ball again. This is, however, applicable only when the striker declines to exercise his right of hitting. But if the ball has crossed the striker's wicket, either batsman can be run out if they are attempting any run. If the ball has been declared wide, one run—as stipulated for 'wide ball'—is added to the score and the batting side wins the match by one wicket.

Q: The batsmen have not crossed each other for the second run when the fielder's over-throw is racing to the

boundary. The batsmen take four runs before the ball crosses the boundary. State (1) how many runs will be awarded and (2) who will face the next ball?

A: (1) Five runs will be awarded to the striker and (2) non-striker will face the next ball.

Q: An injured batsman, who has a runner, hits the ball and one run is taken. But the injured batsman (striker), however, is still loitering about outside his crease. The fielder breaks the wicket with a direct throw. Can the batsman be out 'run out'?

A: Yes, the striker will then be run out.

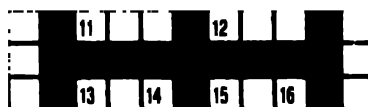
Q: The batsman jumps out to hit the ball. He fails to connect. The wicket-keeper keeps his feet behind the stumps but collects the ball in front of the wicket and re-moves the balls before the striker regains his crease. Can he be stumped or run out?

A: The batsman can not be stumped since the wicket-keeper collected the ball in front of the stumps. He cannot be run out since he was not attempting to take a run.



Crossword

156



ACROSS

- 1 Tilden of tennis fame was better known as Big (4)
- 1 A gift of the elements for an English fast bowler (4)
- 7 Tennis pros have combined into this (1 1 1)
- 9 One of the youngest winners of a Wimbledon title (3)
- 10 Weeks initially (1 1 1)
- 11 A cricketing Dado initially (1 1 1)
- 12 Court divider (3)
- 13 How Nandan of the tennis world ends (3)
- 15 What a fervent race-goer dearly desires is a good this (3)
- 17 A former world table tennis champion begins and ends in circles (3)
- 18 A former West Indian batsman has an organ coming back (3)
- 19 This hockey is popular in Canada coming back (3)
- 20 The basis of cricketing evaluation returns (4)
- 21 One of the organs most exposed in boxing (4)

DOWN

- 2 Country where kho-kho originated (5)
- 3 An Australia opener has atmosphere in between (5)
- 4 Runners-up in hockey at the Moscow Olympics (5)
- 5 A leading athlete has a doctor in between (5)
- 6 Warwickshire's home ground (9)
 - 8 New Swedish tennis star has a conjunction in between (1, 8)
- 13 Jack-- was no man but a racehorse and one of the most successful of them (5)
- 14 He almost killed Chatfield by pitching it short (5)
- 15 When you take one to the ring, you take him to? (5)
- 16 Roland Garros is here (5)

Excellent 24-21, Good 20-17, Fair 16-14

Question box

by Sudhir Jadhav

D Srinivasan, Madras

Q How many runs did Gavaskar score against England in 1972-73 in the first three Tests?

A 20 in each Test, making total of 60 in the first three Tests

A Harish G Makhija, residence not stated

Q What exactly is meant by "obstructing the field"? Has there been an instance in Test?

A When a batsman after making a stroke makes a deliberate attempt to obstruct a fieldsmen from taking the catch offered by the batsman, then the umpire if he is satisfied about the intentions of the batsman can declare the batsman out "obstructing the fieldsmen". Len Hutton of England was given out for 'obstructing the field' in the Test against South Africa at The Oval in 1951

Q Did Graham McKenzie come over to India in 1969-70?

A Yes he did

Amar Madilwar, Ranchi

Q What is Ashok Mankad's highest Test score?

A 97 in the third Test against Australia at Delhi in 1969-70

Subhasish Ghatak, Calcutta

Q Where was the first cricket Test match played? Between whom and when?

A At Melbourne between Australia and England in 1876-77

Bijoy Kumar Mahanti, Barbil

Q What is the highest Test score by a cricketer in Madras?

A 231 by Vinoo Mankad for India against New Zealand in 1955-56

Awadhesh Kumar, Galle

Q Who was the first Test victim of B S Bedi?

A Clive Lloyd of West Indies in the second Test at Calcutta in 1966-67

S Resh, Dalli Rajhara

Q If a wicketkeeper removes the bails with his shoes or pads after catching the ball thrown by a fieldsmen, is the bats-

man involved out?

A No The wicketkeeper should dislodge the bails/stumps with his hands

U H Suresh, Bahrain

Q How many Test teams have scored more than 400 runs in the fourth innings?

A England thrice Australia twice South Africa once, West Indies once, India thrice and New Zealand once

Prakash H Rawal, Asansol

Q What were Sunil Gavaskar's Test-by-Test scores in Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81?

A 0 and 10 at Sydney, 23 and 5 at Adelaide, 10 and 70 at Melbourne in Australia 23 and 12 at Wellington, 53 at Christchurch and 5 and 33 at Auckland

Quiz

Ghu

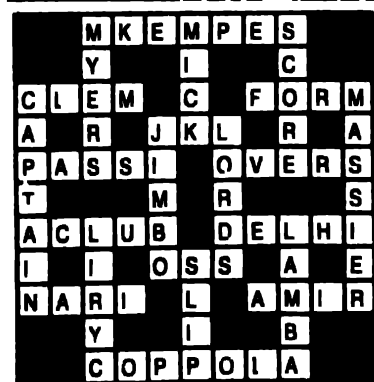
QUESTIONS

- 1 G M H Basha the Technical Director of the AIFF was a footballer. In which position did he play?
- 2 How many teams participated in the Asia-Oceania zone qualifying tournament for the 1982 World Cup football?
- 3 Who are the reigning Asian champions (not Asian Games champions) in football?
- 4 Which Asian team held the eventual champions Czechoslovakia to a draw in the 1980 Olympic soccer tournament?
- 5 Which player scored 250 goals during his 18 years with Real Madrid?
- 6 Which Soviet boxer won the Val Barker Cup which is presented to the best boxer in the Olympic tournament?
- 7 Which boxer won the aforementioned (Q 6) cup in the 1980 Olympics?
- 8 Who was named the best cyclist of the world (by the International Amateur Cycling Federation) for three years in a row?
- 9 A fifteen-year-old school girl gave the USSR their first ever gold medal in swimming. Name her.
- 10 Give the full name of the African Footballer of the Year who figured in the recently-concluded World Cup soccer tournament.

ANSWERS

- 1 Goalkeeper
- 2 21
- 3 Kuwait
- 4 Kuwait
- 5 Francisco Gento
- 6 Valery Popovchenko (1954 Olympics)
- 7 Patrizio Oliva (Italy)
- 8 Sergei Sukhoruchenkov (The USSR)
- 9 Galina Prozumenshchikova (200m breast-stroke champion in the 1964 Olympics)
- 10 Lakhdar Belloumi (Algeria)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 155



in New Zealand in 1980-81

H N Jaysinha, H N Mahesh, Rajhara
Q Who was the first player to score a zero and hold the first catch in Tests?
A E J Gregory of Australia was the first to score a zero in the first-ever Test against England at Melbourne in 1876-77. Allen Hill of England held the first catch to dismiss T P Horan of Australia in the aforesaid Test match.

Jacob Thomas, Gauhati

Q Please let me know the names of different opening batsmen who have opened with Sunil Gavaskar.

A Ashok Mankad (six Tests), Abid Ali (one Test), Ramnath Parkar (two Tests), Farrokh Engineer (four Tests), Eknath Solkar (one Test), Sudhir Naik (one Test), Dilip Vengsarkar (five

Tests), P Sharma (one Tests), Anshuman Gaekwad (10 Tests), Mohinder Amarnath (one Test), Chetan Chauhan (36 Tests), Roger Binny (one Test), K Srikkanth (four Tests), Pranab Roy (two Tests).

S N Tibrawalla, Kathmandu

Q Who are the Test players who have not scored even a single zero in Tests?
A There are innumerable cricketers who have not scored a single zero in their Test careers.

Anil Kumar Agarwall, Barakar

Q How many times has Gavaskar scored the highest runs in both the innings of a completed Test match? What is the world record in this respect?
A Gavaskar himself holds a world record in respect of scoring the highest

number of runs in both innings on most occasions. He has been the top scorer in both innings (completed innings only) of a Test on five occasions.
Q In how many century-stands has Gavaskar participated? What is the world record of a single batsman participating in most century stands in Tests?
A Gavaskar had participated in 36 century stands before his England tour. The break-up is as follows—16 times for first wicket, 12 times for second wicket, four times for third wicket, twice each for the fourth and fifth wicket. Geoff Boycott of England holds the world record for his 46 century stands.

Anilendu Bhattacharjee, Maligaon

Q Is there any bowler who has bowled with both his hands in a Test?
A No.

Bridge

Just because people are fine players of this game it doesn't necessarily mean that they can write intelligently about it and I always regard a book by a new author with some suspicion. It was therefore very pleasing to find that *Hoffman on Pairs Play* by Martin Hoffman (Faber and Faber £6.95) is excellently written and—as you might expect from someone with such a consistently good pairs record—contains much solid advice. I was dummv here!

There is a story that when Capablanca, the great chess master, was asked how many moves ahead he looked, he answered One, the point being that his sense of position made calculation unnecessary. Most of the time, a good bridge player has a feeling for the right line of play, but there are also times when some instinct warns him not to follow his first inclination.

♠ K 10 8 7 6

♥ none

♦ 5 4 3 2

♣ 10 9 6 5

♠ J 7 2

♥ 7 6 4

♦ J 10

♣ A G 1 3

♠ none

♥ A J 9 8 5 3

♦ Q 9 7 6

♣ 8 7 2

♠ A J 9 4 3

♥ Q 10 2

♦ A F 8

♣ K J

'East dealt with North-South vulnerable and playing weak two, the bidding went

South	West	North	East
2♣	4♥	4♠	5♥
10♥	pass	5♠	pass
pass	4♥	all pass	

West led the Jack of diamonds. I won with the Ace, played Ace of spades and finessed the 10. Now it may seem both safe and prudent to draw the last trump but with the cards exposed I expect you can see the snag. Suppose I play King of spades, then finesse the Jack of clubs. West wins and punches dummy with a heart. I lead a club to the King and West holds off. Suddenly I am a trick short. Fortunately I saw the danger in time and led a club to the Jack before drawing the last trump. Then I had the entries to set up an extra club winner against any defence. At the end of each hand Martin picks up

two points to remember, perhaps in the bidding, perhaps in the play. With this deal he analyses why he preferred to overcall with two spades rather than bid 2NT or double and goes on to observe "The play shows simply that first thoughts are not always best. If you have the patience, follow your intended line of play to its conclusion before laying a card on the table."

Last week's quiz. At love all you dealt with ♠ A Q 10 5 2, ♥ Q 3, ♦ K 7, ♣ Q 6 4 3. You opened one spade, your partner responded two hearts and you rebid two-spades. Now partner pushed on with three-hearts. I would raise to four-hearts—partner's bid is constructive for if he had been worth only one bid he would have passed two spades. However, I will be the first to apologise if nine tricks proves to be the limit.

This week's quiz. At game all you deal as South with ♠ K 4, ♥ A K J 9 7, ♦ Q 5, ♣ A 7 6 4 and open one-heart. West overcalls with two-diamonds and this is followed by two passes. What action, if any, do you take?

Chess

It can be taken for granted that there will be some spectacular chess in an event in which Michael Basman participates. I recently saw him in action in the East Devon Open, and, though he did not win the tournament (that distinction went to Mark Hebden and Jim Plaskett), Basman certainly lived up to his reputation as one of this country's most original and creative masters. The game given below shows him at his most aggressive and provided excellent entertainment for the onlookers.

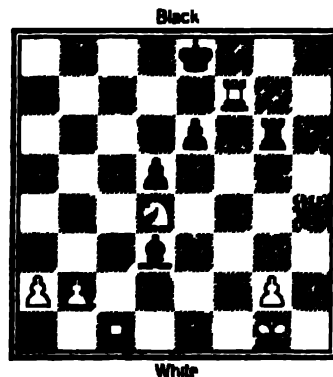
White: Michael Basman; **Black:** Christopher Bellare. **Sicilian Defence (Exeter 1982)**
 1 P-B4, P-B4; 2 B-B3, P-B4;
 3 P-B3, B-B2; 4 P-B4, P-B4;
 5 P-B4, P-B4; 6 P-B4, B-B3;
 7 B-B2, B-B2; 8 B-B2, P-B4;
 9 P-B4

Some sort of aggression is necessary, otherwise Black will set up a very solid wall of defence.
 10 P-B4; 11 B-B2, B-B2;
 12 B-B2, B-B2;
 13 B-B2, B-B2;
 14 B-B2, B-B2;
 15 B-B2, B-B2;

... Q x K P 12 0-0 Q x K2, 13 R-B1 would give White too many possibilities.
 12 B-B2, B-B2;
 13 B-B2, B-B2;
 14 B-B2, B-B2;
 15 B-B2, B-B2;

17 B-B2, B-B2; 18 B-B2, B-B2;
 19 B-B2, B-B2; 20 B-B2, B-B2;
 21 B-B2, B-B2; 22 B-B2, B-B2;
 23 B-B2, B-B2; 24 B-B2, B-B2;
 25 B-B2, B-B2; 26 B-B2, B-B2;
 27 B-B2, B-B2; 28 B-B2, B-B2;
 29 B-B2, B-B2; 30 B-B2, B-B2;
 31 B-B2, B-B2; 32 B-B2, B-B2;
 33 B-B2, B-B2; 34 B-B2, B-B2;
 35 B-B2, B-B2; 36 B-B2, B-B2;
 37 B-B2, B-B2; 38 B-B2, B-B2;

Also, this is the wrong way for the Black King. White could not have won after 18 K-B1!
 19 B-B2, B-B2;
 20 B-B2, B-B2;
 21 B-B2, B-B2;
 22 B-B2, B-B2;
 23 B-B2, B-B2;
 24 B-B2, B-B2;
 25 B-B2, B-B2;
 26 B-B2, B-B2;
 27 B-B2, B-B2;
 28 B-B2, B-B2;
 29 B-B2, B-B2;
 30 B-B2, B-B2;
 31 B-B2, B-B2;
 32 B-B2, B-B2;
 33 B-B2, B-B2;
 34 B-B2, B-B2;
 35 B-B2, B-B2;
 36 B-B2, B-B2;
 37 B-B2, B-B2;
 38 B-B2, B-B2;



White to play. How did the game finish? Grade 3 (medium).

Solution to 6827 (Zurich - English, London, 1983).
 (483/p1P3p1/2g1p1p/3M4/8/100PP1/00P/8-White to play.) The spectacular 47 Q-K5, Q x Q, 48 P-B8-Qch, K-B2, 49 Q x Kch, K x Q, 50 K2-B7ch, K-K4, 51 K x Q left White with a decisive material advantage and he won on the 68th move.

No 1184. Solution next week.
A Mini (Bristol Times, 1977)
 (100/1p4p1/402/101k3a/r04p/1P1P1R10/001/k004-10 white men, 8 black) White to play and mate in two moves.
Solution to No 1183 (Kipping)
 (8/301p2/402a/101k3a/r04p/1P1P1R10/001/k004-10 white men, 8 black) White to play and mate in two moves.
 1 B-B5 (threatening 2 Q x R 2 K2-Q4 and 2 K2-K7) (a) 1 P x K2, 2 Q-KR7 (b) 1 B-Q3ch 2 K-K5, (c) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (d) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (e) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (f) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (g) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (h) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (i) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (j) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (k) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (l) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (m) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (n) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (o) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (p) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (q) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (r) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (s) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (t) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (u) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (v) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (w) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (x) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (y) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, (z) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3;

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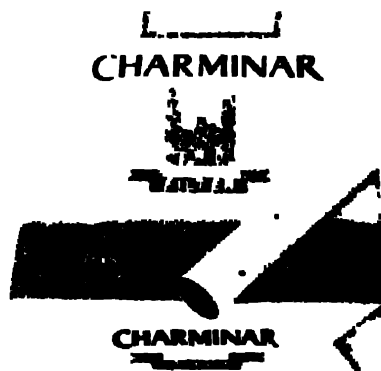
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WORLD CUP REVIEW

Italian Renaissance

BY GUY LAWRENCE, TORINO AND JOHN ESKRICH, 82

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Cover transparency of Dino Zoff Paolo Rossi and Claudio Gentile by AP

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Letters to the Editor

Best team

I THINK that you would be interested in the following eleven which I consider to be the best-ever one that India has ever produced. The team goes like this: Mushtaq Ali, S M Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, M A K Pataudi (captain), Vinoo Mankad, Farookh Engineer, Kapil Dev, Nikhanj, Ramakant Desai, Mohammed Nissar and B S Bedi. Twelfth man: E D Solkar. The persons, who I feel could easily have walked into this side and certainly should if any of the players fell ill, are Vijay Merchant for Mushtaq Ali, Lala Amarnath for Pataudi, Kirmani for Engineer and Prasanna for Bedi. If it ever was possible for this team to slight and take charge I would find nothing more fitting than to ask Betty Sabharwal to take over the microphones and also request the editor of this magazine himself to write the match reports.

SOMNATH RAY,
Calcutta

I DOUBT whether there could be an Indian team better than this one. Here it goes: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, Gundappa Vishwanath, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Lala Amarnath, Kapil Dev, Syed Kirmani, E A S Prasanna, Mohammed Nissar and Bishan Singh Bedi. Twelfth man: Ghulam Parkar.

P PADMAKUMAR,
Madras

WITH reference to your publication dated 7 July, where you have invited readers to send their best ever Indian teams, my choice is here as follows: Pankaj Roy, Mushtaq Ali, Lala Amarnath, Vinoo Mankad, C K Nayudu (captain), F M Engineer, Kapil Dev, Prasanna, Subroto Guha, Chandrasekhar and E D Solkar.

ANJAN KUMAR MAJUMDER,
Calcutta

MY TEAM reads like this: Sunil Gavaskar, Vinoo Mankad, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, Polly Umrigar, M A K Pataudi (captain), Kapil Dev, Amar Singh, Mohammed Nissar, E A S Prasanna and Prabhakar Sen. Twelfth man: E D Solkar.

SHIBAJIT DAS,
SUDIP CHOUDHURY,
K I S H A L A Y
CHOUDHURY,
Shillong

THE best Indian team since the days of C K Nayudu to that of Sunil Gavaskar is given here as follows: Vijay Merchant, S M Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, Vinoo Mankad, M A K Pataudi, Farookh Engineer, Kapil Dev, Amar Singh, Mohammed Nissar, and B S Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: E D Solkar.

CHINMOY ROY,
Calcutta

MY best Indian team is as follows: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Lala Amarnath, Vijay Hazare, Polly Umrigar, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Farookh Engineer, Mohammed Nissar, Amar Singh, Vinoo Mankad and Subhash Gupte. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

SHYAMAL BHATTACHARJEE,
Nagpur

IN response to your call I am putting down my choice of the best-ever Indian team since 1932. Here it is: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, Gundappa Vishwanath, Lala Amarnath, Vinoo Mankad, Kapil Dev, Syed Kirmani, Amar Singh, Mohammed Nissar and Subhash Gupte. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

M K KHAITAN,
Raniganj

Final say

After the third Test and with the losing of the series I have no doubt that Sunil Gavaskar will have a very 'lame' excuse to offer.

PRABAL GUHA,
Calcutta

Editor's page



It is not often that the Man of the Series, or even the Man of the Match award is given to a player of the losing side. Kapil Dev was the recipient of these honours and this only emphasises the impact that one individual made in England, a few days ago. No doubt Wisden will also recognise the achievement. It is therefore a shame that the combined efforts of the rest were not enough to beat a side which had been outplayed during the last winter.

The reasons were fairly apparent. By the time the batting came to terms with itself it was too late, and in a three Test series it is virtually impossible to gain a lost lead. Not that it would have made a great difference in this case, even if the tour had been longer, for to win a match it is necessary to bowl the opposition out twice and that patently was a daydream which eventually became a nightmare for the Indian bowlers. Nor were they helped by some lackadaisical and carefree fielding, which further stressed the limitations of the present Indian attack.

Looking back on the tour and taking into account

of the less successful ones, it would be comparatively easy to lay the blame on poor selection. It can be pointed out that not one selector has had the benefit of playing first class cricket in England for almost a quarter of a century and even if the game as played over five days has seen no drastic changes in attitude, the same cannot be said for the ground conditions and new regulations which have been introduced in order to provide a demanding public with more entertainment. When Polly Umrigar last donned his pads in 1959, the wickets were left open to the elements, which helped to produce some striking bowling analyses; today the wickets are totally covered, making life that much easier for the batsmen. And yet the atmospheric conditions can allow a competent bowler to move the ball. This is exactly what did transpire. Throughout May, this year, England was blessed with sunshine, and the batsmen gifted with slow and flat wickets. Some of the less experienced, took partial advantage and scored, wondering, perhaps, why so much fuss was made about batting in England. As the first Test approached the climate changed, clouds appeared and there was a scent of rain in the breeze. At Lord's there was some bounce at the Nursery End, the ball wobbled a little and those same players who had hoped to continue scoring found themselves way out of their depth and unable at this late stage to adjust to new demands. The others, as already mentioned, either failed or found themselves in the runs too late for practical purposes. As such, it seems unfair to blame the selection committee for the lack of form of those who had more than proved themselves during the winter. Perhaps, and with the benefit of hindsight (a prerogative of the critic and the

journalist) the bowling could have been chosen with more imagination. Bowlers like Nayak and Randhir Singh were meant to work hard during the County games; neither was expected to create serious inroads into the English batting, which is more or less brought up facing medium-pacers. Instead, could not India have included a leg spinner, who by his very novelty may have caused more confusion amongst those, who by tradition have played this type of bowling with exaggerated care?

In any case, a tour of England as the Indians have so often found is no time for experiments (more youngsters have been marred than made). Here, there is no substitute for experience and the inclusion of Chauhan would have saved some embarrassment for Roy or Parker, though it is unlikely that the result would have been different. The lack of penetration in the bowling and the sense of urgency in the field were so evident that unless Indian cricket is able to find a solution to these deficiencies in quick order all we can expect is a mauling by the Pakistani batsmen.

And one last word addressed more to the coach than to you. On this trip the Indian team spent far too much time attending receptions and dinners held in their honour. Accepted that this is also a part of touring, but there is also a limit and standing around making idle chatter with mostly strangers can be more tiring than spending five hours in the field. It must be avoided or restricted severely, especially during Test matches.

G. S. Ramani

Tour Review

The summer of all-rounders

The recent series boiled down, with the passing of the Tests, into a personal struggle between the all-rounders. Cricket benefited though the competition between the two sides never suggested much excitement. A CORRESPONDENT elucidates

CONTRARY to the opinion of the Indian public, which must be now making a frenzied scramble for their tellies to catch their last glimpse of the summer's heroes, it may come as a surprise but it is sadly true that as far as competition between the two sides served the criterion the series between India and England picked up exactly from where 'Ginger' Fletcher and 'Sunny' Gavaskar had left off at Kanpur last month.

The difference between the two sides was too great for the Indians to pose any pretensions for the rubber and the only time—and that wasn't for too long—that lethargic cricket correspondents rubbed their eyes and sat up fully awake was when India looked imminently in store for a follow-on and subsequent disaster.

Of course, individual performances did intermittently disturb the monotony and if that angle were to be picked up then it all levelled down to the battle of the all-rounders, of a kind that England has not seen for long, very long between two titans at the highest level. And it was fortunately coincidental that both should strike form at once—to be absolutely fair. Botham has been in one continuous appointment with success since the Bangalore Test last year—and lead onward, albeit individually to a summer to remember.

When the question of Kapil's rejuvenation comes up one is reminded greatly of that miserable visit of 1979 when frankly he had become the target of much indulgent advice with the result that his natural faculties were being hindered.

He had begun to worry far too much about the swing of the ball and had extended carefree batting to a degree of exaggerated caution. The result was that he failed at what might just have won him any gamble with hands tied behind his back and with the opponents breathing fire down his neck. At The Oval, three years ago, when just a few runs sifted between India and victory Kapil was sent in in the hope that he would do the usual. He got a four but holed out to Botham at the boundary's edge and gamble was lost, the match drawn.

Today if that match were to be played again, Brearley would have had time to jump into his car and have his cup of tea in Middlesex at sundown. Kapil, in all probability, would have hit a near hundred in

Indian supporters in varying attire gyrate to the tunes of friends after Shastri and Vishwanath had notched up the 100 of the partnership at The Oval



record time, run away with the Man of the Match award and made sure that the series was squared. "When I asked for instructions," he went on record after his once-in-a-lifetime 89 at Lord's, this year, "the captain said, 'Carry on exactly how you feel'." Sunil Gavaskar could not have done his lieutenant and his country more good.

For Ian Botham, on the other hand, it was just one of those summers, if you have read the newspapers in 1981 and know exactly what I am talking about. His lowest score in the series was 67 and he batted in an incredible crescendo, his batting permed considerably with a touch of responsibility. Not exactly utilitarian, something unique, something very much of his own. When his sledgehammer hitting compelled the Indian captain to send his men packing into a defensive field designed to cut off the fours, Botham would quite naturally revert to his tap-and-run delicacies.

The result was that Gavaskar never hit upon the master equation, had his bowling carted around while the fieldmen competed amongst themselves for the most number of catches dropped. A responsible member of the Board went on record before the team had embarked that this was the best Indian fielding side that was being sent abroad. You were sure it you had not believed him.

Coming back to Botham, the shortened tour of three Tests only served to alleviate the Indian's discomfiture against Botham's increasing batting bashi bazaroukery. In his last nine innings against India he has reached the fifty mark in as many as eight, comprising which are two hundreds and one double century. It may send the statistical souls scurrying to know that had Botham been able to convert his second innings 31 at Calcutta, last winter, into a half hundred he would have by now been the recipient of many an accolade. His double century would have brought up his ninth successive innings of over fifty and that would be a world record, leaving Irvton Weekes way behind and unawares. So much for responsibility, dash and consistency that is the Scunthorpe striker!

Coming now to the rather mind-boggling question of finding the supremo between the prides of India and England, one would need to elucidate make certain provisions before handing out the palms, if ever they were meant to be handed out to one and not both together. Ian Botham, who came into Test cricket primarily as a bowler, is undoubtedly the more responsible as far as batting goes as the last two series have amply proved. From a biff-bang boy Botham has elevated himself to a determined 'sticker' alternating pyrotechnics with an enforced ability to graft. From just an obscure



Botham shows signs of weariness as he reaches his first double century in Tests. The scoreboard tells the tale but what it missed out was that it was the third fastest 200 by an Englishman.

Somerset pigeon bird shooter he has outgrown himself into one of the most aggressive and dependable batsmen in the world. Kapil, meanwhile, is tempered with almost as much of aggression, but in method of approach is vastly to the contrary. Though he is supple in the wrists and some of his shots would remind one of the India rubber ticks of his batting order predecessor, Vishwanath, what he most definitely lacks is the capacity to glue himself to the crease and score off the conveyor belt. Sometimes his urgency prompts that he is in a hurry to catch the evening train and not hold out in the endeavour of preparing for bed and breakfast at the crease till the following morning. Rather odd for an immensely talented cricketer in the

Aeroplane Age

But what can certainly be said in his favour and defence is his panache for playing an innings so characteristic of his nature. That is why Kapil is such a compelling man to watch. Decades ago, Sir Neville Cardus had written that he knew of only one man who either played true to his nature or immediately got out. He was referring to Harold Gimblett. If Cardus had survived into a day as late as this and thought it fit for his copy to go into a later edition he would have added Kapil's name up there.

Digressing to the rest, one finds that Dilip Doshi fared well after the Lord's Test and proceeded to capture his Test best at Old Trafford. But it must be brought to notice that

also to blame partly for his poor bowling in the first Test was his captain himself. When the breeze was pushing the vanes just where it would have made Doshi frisk in glee and from an end where the slope would have made minutes difficult for England's front-liners, Gavaskar had him despatched to the other end and threw the ball to Shastri to reap his favourite conditions. Some days later, Robin Marlar subtly put it across in *The Times*. "Doshi, who continually has to win Gavaskar's esteem." "You bet there was a catch somewhere!"

Another Indian bowler, more blatantly noticeable by the end of the series, was about the opening fiasco. Nayak's promotion to the magic slot did have many brows curving upwards in the Press Box and rightly, too. This has been one facet of the tour that Gavaskar would like to forget very soon. His ankle-bust made it possible for some of the lesser lights to bask in the sunshine higher up. That made it eight openers for India in 10 Tests. During the last Test when the manager of the Indian team was asked to comment about Ghulam Parkar, the reply was forthcoming that Parkar was a talented opening batsman and an efficient club wicketkeeper. Where do they start recruiting from these days?

When the Indian team returns home—most of them are off to the United States—there will be trying times for many but carpets of red will be laid out for one—Sandeep Patil. His gamble before the Old Trafford encounter was one that 19 out of 20 captains would never have taken. And Patil, so mysteriously chosen under the garb of an additional medium pacer, was not given a bowl but proceeded to hit up one of the most powerful hundreds against an Indian's name. He had begun with a rasping square-cut for three, thus, emphasising a vital truth that he had very little to lose under the circumstances. Confidence returned as fast as the shots—at one stage it was 24 runs in an over of Willis!—and the man was made Patil, who at one time was giving Dilip Doshi serious competition in finishing last in the tour averages ended up at the dizzy top of the Test averages from either side.

They say that when a man is dying his life passes from in front of him in a swift panorama. If there is any truth in it then this writer shall most certainly see Kapil heaving Botham into the galleries at Lord's, Botham in turn acknowledging cheers for his 200, pug-nosed Malhotra's face shooting a grin from ear to ear with Patil's incredible century coming up and lastly—how can it be forgotten?—Gavaskar being led off with a dismembered ankle at The Oval. And in that order, too. It was appropriate, the end, that is. It, more or less, summed it up for India.



Of Kapil's 89 at Lord's John Woodcock wrote "In my mind Kapil would, in any age, have been a great asset to the game." Here he drives one. Could the helmet have aided the confidence?

ENGLAND VERSUS PAKISTAN
ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

England excel

A CORRESPONDENT files his despatch on the two one-day internationals, in which England swamped Pakistan comfortably

THERE were many long faces at Trent Bridge after the result between England and Pakistan had borne itself out for many speculators associated closely with the fluctuating fortunes of a bull market had put their end of the week leftovers on

Pakistan and paid for it (no pun intended). Frankly speaking, this writer would not blame their foresight for Pakistan on paper looked intimidating especially after their three wins over the County sides—each by an innings—being more

close to recent memory. And it seemed partly ironical that a South African—the third party—should have played the protagonist and come out with flying 'colours' in a match that appeared to be Pakistan's.

Skipper Imran Khan was of the opinion that "We've seen very mediocre County bowling, even by Pakistani standards, since we arrived in England. It's all very disconcerting." Later, he was to add "I feel at the moment that we are at equal strength. It will depend on our batting." But at Nottingham what gave the gamble away was the howling as the other department stood up to acquit itself fairly successfully and at one juncture, when Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar had put up more than a 100, the outcome seemed to be definitely outlined and the visitors home and dry.

Both the Pakistani openers had enjoyed, till this part of the itinerary, a very successful visit and this leg was no exception. Mudassar Nazar had stood out with a high degree of consistency, scoring 211 versus Sussex and 163 against Glamorgan, both not out. Mohsin Khan, who reached his highest Test score earlier in the year, showed signs of finally having been elevated to maturity after his two century innings of 151 and 165 on this tour and a near three figure one against Somerset. As many as 102 were built on by the two in fiery tandem before Mudassar Nazar's running himself out brought forward the first signs of a setback. Mudassar Nazar had walked too far down the wicket and when Mohsin's return shot down the pitch was stopped by the bowler—England's newest 'catch'—Eddie Hemmings, the son of the former Pakistani opener at 51 was caught in no man's land and far away from home.

Mohsin Khan was swallowed by the pavilion almost immediately after. Just one ball later, when he was standing three runs short of an imminent half-century, he tried to find a gap in Willis' field with a drive off Botham but, in trying to force across the line, miscalculated and his middle stump was wicketed.

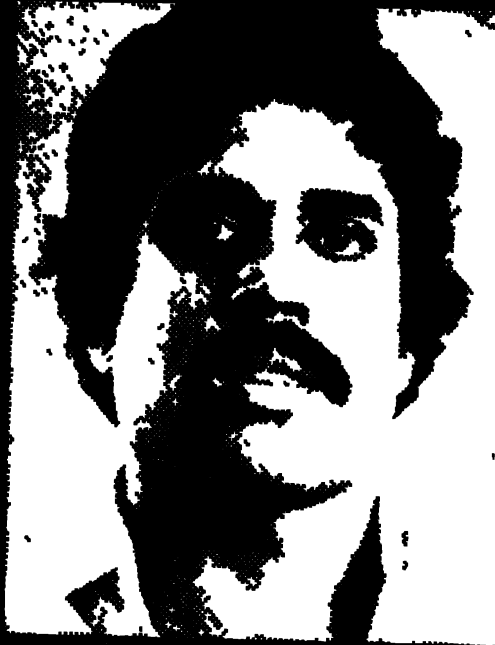
Pakistan lunched at 128 for two after which the blitzkrieg was taken up in the night earnestly by Zaheer Abbas. There were flashes of the elegance of yore coupled effectively with the one-day mood before Zaheer, at 53, was trapped in front and Derek Pringle had claimed his first wicket of the match.

Though there was little of pyrotechnics on an extended lease after that, bits and pieces from Mianad (28), Majid Khan (23) and Imran (16 not out) were forthcoming till at last Pakistan consumed their 55 overs, gathered a round 250 for six wickets before occupying them.



Allen Lamb—a fluent 118 was the mastermind

**THEY COULDN'T BEAT THE MAN
WHO SHAVES WITH SWISH.**



*Congratulations to Kapil Dev
on being declared
'Man of the Series'.*



From the makers of Swish Stainless

selves with the problem of bowling England out

It never came about. Though the initial glance at the scorebook revealed that runs at the rate of four runs and a half per over would be required it was always a reasoning, with the Pakistan bowling in mind, that it was going to be increasingly difficult. But the Englishmen defied the odds with a resounding reply in what is turning out gradually as another incredibly successful summer for English cricket.

Bob Willis, England's captain, made a positive approach evident from the very beginning when in retaliation he promoted David Gower to open the innings in accompaniment with Chris Tavare. In a way, Gower's promotion seems justified, explained by his apparent lack of frenzy to go after his strokes and yet keep the scoreboard moving. But in this season of wilting proficiency this writer wonders whether sending him high up in the line up did any good in restoring an already sagging morale. For Gower went for 17 while Chris Tavare, who had been offered a stool in jest for his first gear batting at The Oval just four days before, made a typical 48 that served to keep the stall going from one end.

But England's search for the ultimate might not have been attended by success had it not been for Allan Lamb. He has been in wonderful nick right through the summer and picked up from his Oval hounded with another in England's hour of hope. Lamb has always been noted for his exceptional ease and this he had exemplified never better than in the Lord's Test in June, when he drove Kapil Dev for a four off the very first ball of the last morning in England's moments of uncertainty. On this occasion he demonstrated a stern fibre of temperament beyond argument, his unusually efficient 118 devoid of any visible trace of tentativeness or naked error. Mike Gatting, who at present has treated his place among the top of the County averages more as a pre-emptive right than as a matter of skill and some luck chipped in with some chunky support and England made the day, as many as 75 overs before estimated schedule.

IMRAN KHAN's threat of making the English pay the price for Kashmir—a historical contention with its roots in the Mountbatten era—took another jolting when his trusted generals failed him and perished in the attempt of making a firm bid to square the one-day series. That made it the fourth win for England in as many matches this summer in over-luxuriant games and if things go as salubriously in Australia this winter, it would need no exertion for even a phlegmatic brain to predict as to who shall be the favourites for the Prudential Cup, next year.

Unlike the encounter at Trent

Bridge, it was England who set the pace at Manchester and finally drew the net of errors around the visitors much too early for their comfort. And for England the points of satisfaction must have brewed from the success stories and the resurrection of Mike Gatting, blossoming to the extreme now in a role that is not too unfamiliar with his method of belligerence. The other man to have saved the selectors some embarrassment was Derek Pringle, the topic of much muffled discussion in journalistic gatherings. Finally, the lad, right out from Cambridge with a light blue wrist band to highlight the daring blood of youth and advertise growing adventure, came good after many a tentative probing down the pitch.

Talking of Qadir brings an engrossing aspect to mind. This leg-spinner, spinning webs that would have rivalled that of a spider's, has been reducing the most of England's batsmen to insomniacs. Most of the cricket writers, here in England, are building up a professional rivalry between him and Ian Botham with a view to increasing gate returns and this can reasonably be explained by this one-day match itself. Had Qadir been played and thrashed—Iqbal Qasim was bowled at Old Trafford and his eight overs yielded 76 runs—the bubble would instantly have been pricked and all tricks up Pakistan's long sleeve would have exposed themselves. Instead, Qadir was conveniently stored in cotton wool and expected to be released during the first Test in the expectation of putting the majority of England's batsmen to seed. The theory may well succeed. English batsmen, who are by now known for their instant discomfort at the sight of a leg spinner—Qadir captured 34 wickets in the first five matches of the tour—may just resort to inflated caution or indiscretionary strokeplay and lose the day.

At Old Trafford England, like seasoned Thespians performing in front of a swelling crowd of 20,000, ran up an incredible 295 which is seldom bettered in one-day encounters. And this time Gower vindicated Willis' perseverance, scored 33 and the cart was moving. Tavare at the other end, usually the undemonstrative of batsmen, ran himself out with the team score at 32 but that did little to weaken England's cause. Allan Lamb's 27, very typical runs, compensated for the damage while Gower perished, too only to allow an impatient Gatting to dig his gloved fingers deeper into Pakistan's throat. This Middlesex batsman, the modern-day Little John right out from Sherwood Forest, started his plundering early and the trend was set. Botham, who had by then entered the fray, made it twosome and they ventured out together to make it a long afternoon for Pakistan and as

embarrassing.

At lunch, Botham and Gatting were batting with 11 and 30 respectively and they immediately set out for the crash course after reinforcements. Gatting made advancement to his personal score to reach 76 without much fuss while Botham reacted in a manner that has now become an accepted form of his attack rather than one reserved for junctures of overpressure. He sent Qasim serenely over the top on two occasions but fell to Imran Khan, caught Wasim Raja, just on the verge of a half century off 27 balls. Gatting failed to make home and beat the throw, run out, but that merely gave the lead to refreshed youngsters in the wing to breathe the air and prove themselves. Pringle made a well-compiled and unbeaten 34, while Miller chipped in with a 26 that stamped him out more as an all-rounder than as a trundler employed in breaks.

The target of beating England at an overly rate of 5.38 seemed Quixotic enough and Pakistan who revived in parts, did not seem to be equal to it. In a limited-over game though the tally of wickets is secondary, the rapid loss of a couple can do nothing but retard the steady advance towards the ultimate. And so it was with Pakistan, who lost their first two wickets within three runs after Mudassar Nazar and Mohsin Khan had applied themselves fluently to a firm foundation of 52 in rippy time. There was partial restoration when Zaheer and Mansoor Akhtar—with a century before lunch under his belt in one of the County encounters—showed signs of getting set but Pringle edged out Abbas and, to chuck the flint to their chances, Mansoor Akhtar was run out. From then on, the struggle materialised itself and Majid was bowled for five by Miller.

A 60-run stand between skipper Imran Khan and Wasim Raja alleviated frustration, then mounting. There was momentary hope when they flourished especially with dashing Raja's flashing blade always a delight, keeping England's potency temporarily at bay with a fine 60. Sadly, it never came to use. Imran Khan, too, failed to last out, falling to Miller's wiles for 31. The end of the story was at hand. Naqqash, with no authentic pretensions to batting, ran himself out for only one, Bari followed with four but by then the spinnaker had sunk to 201 for eight wickets. Iqbal Qasim contributed 13 until the fight spluttered out at 222, Pakistan being beaten by 73 runs.

However, this is not reason enough for hoisting the flags of mourning. Very much like the fates of their geographical neighbours, Pakistan could show their truer shades with the coming of the Tests. And if they do then it shall be a summer to remember.

DAVIS CUP

Swedes inject a touch of freshness

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on how the United States scraped past rivals Sweden

AS the Italians and Americans were going crazy on the streets of cities like New York, celebrating Italy's World Cup soccer victory, a young American patriot was waging the longest battle of his career in St Louis. John Patrick McEnroe, Jr., at this time was carrying his country almost single-handedly to the semi-finals of the Davis Cup after a six-and-a-half-hour duel against Mats Wilander of Sweden.

It was an ordeal for McEnroe and the tennis enthusiasts who were glued to their television sets soon after the World Cup finals. It was the final match of the second round tie between Sweden and the U.S. with both countries tied, two matches apiece.

The match which lasted six hours and 32 minutes, and 79 games with a 32 game third set, revealed how important the Davis Cup has become once again. John McEnroe and Mats

Wilander had more than personal reputations at stake in this encounter.

A win or a loss would not make any substantial difference to their careers. But, the crucial final match would have a profound impact on this year's Davis Cup. It was important for the tournament that McEnroe and his team-mates stayed alive in it, to keep it going in full swing till the finals.

"Davis Cup matches in the fifth set is what tennis is all about," said U.S. captain Arthur Ashe. "The fifth set separates the men from the boys."

Indeed it did. Sweden had a team of "boys". The oldest player in the team was Anders Jarryd, who will be 21 in another week. French champion Mats Wilander (17) and doubles player Hans Simonsson are still boys when compared to most Davis Cup players. But the lads gave the men the scare of their lives, before con-

ceding a 2-3 victory.

Before Wimbledon, there were rumours that Bjorn Borg would play for Sweden. But once again the mystery man was missing. The burden fell on one of the youngest Davis Cup teams in history for the second time this year. But Wilander's miracle at Paris had given the Swedish team an unexpected shot in the arm.

In the opening singles, John McEnroe had a fairly easy win over Jarryd after a 10-8 first set. Wilander levelled the match score with a 6-4, 7-5, 3-6, 3-6, 6-0 display against Eliot Teltscher. The relentless baseline game of the Swede prevailed over the skill of the American. In their only previous meeting, Teltscher had won 6-3, 6-0. But that was before Paris 1982.

The doubles was indeed a one-sided affair. McEnroe teamed up with his regular partner Peter Fleming. It was their first match after their loss in the Wimbledon finals. The 6-4, 6-3, 6-0 score is ample indication of the ease with which they overcame Jarryd and Simonsson. In the beginning of the match Simonsson held serve at love. He looked the stronger of the combination, but it was his serve that the Americans broke in the first set to take the lead.

He was broken again in the fourth game of the second set. That gave the Americans a 4-1 lead. The third set was McEnroe and Fleming all the way. Everything they did was just right and it was a clean sweep.

So far the tie seemed to be going the American way. But before the reverse singles began on Sunday, trouble had started. Eliot Teltscher, who was scheduled to meet Jarryd, was out of the tie. During practice he had suffered from "acute tendinitis of the lumbago muscle," which is like a muscle strain. He was taken to St. John's Hospital and based on the doctor's report, referee Bob Howe allowed a substitution. Brian Gottfried took Teltscher's place.

It was Gottfried at his worst, at least in the first two sets. Jarryd came up with an impressive array of strokes and jumped into a 4-0 lead. The first set took only 32 minutes, as did the second. The score was 6-2 in both in favour of the Swede. Jarryd's ground strokes were perfect and he came to the net at every possible opportunity.

Jarryd broke at love in the opening game of the third set. But Gottfried broke back in the very next game. Jarryd broke again and so did Gottfried. That put the American ahead at 4-3. Then he had an advantage against Jarryd, but the young Swede swept the next 11 points to clinch the match for his country.

That made the McEnroe-Wilander match crucial. McEnroe did business as usual and took the first set in almost an hour at 9-7. The second set took only half that time and Wilander was granted only two games. The crowd at Checkerdome were getting



McEnroe puts everything into a service he barely outlasted Wilander to give his team the rubber

ready for an easy wrap up by McEnroe.

Then the unexpected happened Mats Wilander took the third set 17-15. It was shocking, frustrating and frightening. It looked as if the mighty United States would be humiliated by a bunch of kids from Sweden. The ghost of Bjorn Borg seemed to loom over the Checker-dome. The crowd froze in silence and watched helplessly as John McEnroe put everything he had into it, without luck.

This is how it went. Wilander held serve in the first game and McEnroe took the second. Then he broke Wilander to lead 2-1. At this stage, he was in full command, doing everything the way he wanted. In the seventh game McEnroe had four break points against Wilander. But the latter fought off four deuces and held serve. It was the turning point in the match.

Then Wilander broke McEnroe's serve to level at 4-4. That was the beginning of the marathon. Both players held serve for the next 23 games. McEnroe had break points in three different games. But Wilander's patience prevailed on all these occasions. Finally, in the 32nd game, McEnroe double faulted at break point and Wilander accepted the favour with gratitude.

That setback upset the rhythm of McEnroe's game. He seemed dejected. Wilander capitalised on the lapse and took the third set 6-3 in just 33 minutes.

The fifth set began with Wilander in command once again. He held McEnroe at deuce four times and held an advantage. But McEnroe managed to hang on to hold serve. McEnroe reacted to a call by lineswoman Edie Brown by hitting the ball past her and umpire Bob Jenkins of Wimbledon fame penalised him a point. The crowd roared in total disapproval of the umpire's gesture and cheered wildly as their hero produced a couple of winners.

Then he broke Wilander's serve, the first time in 40 games, to command a crucial 2-0 lead. But Wilander broke him back in the very next with some excellent passing shots from the baseline. The crowd cheered McEnroe all the way through the next few games and victory was in sight as he held serve in the 13th game with two aces.

Then he broke Wilander to take the match and the quarter-final tie. As a weak return by Wilander hit the net, John McEnroe jumped on the shoulders of Arthur Ashe like a little kid who couldn't hide his emotions. It looked so much unlike John McEnroe.

This was the longest match of McEnroe's career. It was also the longest Davis Cup match since the challenge round format has been eliminated. The longest Davis Cup match by an American was played by



Wilander hits a bustling backhand

Dennis Ralston against Iyo Pimental of Venezuela in 1963.

"It's a frustrating feeling, believe me," said McEnroe. "But I hung in there and I'm happy. It was the longest match I've played, and I can tell you for a fact that my body isn't feeling very good."

Mats Wilander was not satisfied with his brilliant performance. "I'm disappointed," he said. "You should always be disappointed when you lose." After all, what else could be expected from a youngster like Wilander who plays every point to win.

What Wilander couldn't do in spite of the 2-hour 39-minute marathon set—namely pull off an upset at this year's Davis Cup quarter-finals—came from Yannick Noah of France. Noah beat the Czechs with the help of his new doubles partner Henri Lanconete. He began the campaign by beating Thomas Smid. Then he had the doubles victory over Smid and Pavel Slozil. After this he took on Lendl who had beaten Thierry Tulasne in a five-setter. Noah's 6-2, 3-6, 7-9, 6-3, 6-4 victory gave France a 3-1 lead over the most formidable team of the year. The final match between Smid and Tulasne ended as Smid led 3-2 in the first set. The French youngster, who had suffered

from sunstroke retired, at this stage.

As the Czechs were being eliminated in Paris, New Zealand overcame Italy 3-2 at Cervia, Italy. Chris Lewis clinched the series against New Zealand by beating veteran Adriano Panatta, to record the best Kiwi show in the Davis Cup.

Australia prevailed over Chile by sweeping the first three matches. The reverse singles proved to be more exciting as Mark Edmondson lost to Ricardo Acuna in five sets. But John Fitzgerald was in no mood for a giveaway. In the final match he played five sets to overcome Pedro Rebolledo. It was a gruelling affair as both players went at each other as if it were a final with high stakes involved. Incidentally, it was the first time that Acuna had played on grass.

New Zealand will meet France in Paris and the U.S.A. will take on the Australians in Perth. Playing in Perth will not be to the advantage of the Americans. But the Davis Cup means so much to Ashe and McEnroe that they will pull all the tricks out of their bag to move to the finals.

This round of the Davis Cup certainly belonged to the younger generation of players. Their presence and performance have given vitality and glamour to the Davis Cup.

WORLD CUP REVIEW

Italian Renaissance

P. K. BANERJEE, just back from Spain, explains what really went wrong with Brazil. In addition, he feels, there were lessons aplenty to be learnt from watching the world's top teams in action

WITH regard to the new setup involving 24 teams in the final stages of the World Cup, I would like to point out that the system has its disadvantages as well as obvious advantages. It means that more than 50 matches have to be played over a period of three weeks and I personally feel that this places too great a demand on the players. One must remember that these men are required to maintain peak form over this period and the more drawnout the tournament, the greater the demands on physical fitness and stamina. No man or team for that matter can ever hope to play a world class tournament for such a long period.

However, on the other hand, it does

have certain plus points. There have been a lot of newcomers in the World Cup arena and most of them have acquitted themselves very well, like Algeria, Cameroon and Kuwait.

No real assessment is possible because of the vastness of the tournament and all that is possible is for one to review the matches one has seen. One point that I should like to emphasise is that some teams started out brilliantly but faded out as the tournament went on. The prime offenders in this respect were Brazil, while others like the new World Cup champions Italy, started out on a very defensive note but came out brilliantly at the end.

One must, of course, touch on what

happened to Brazil. They were widely regarded as the favourites to dethrone Argentina, but they inexplicably failed to do so. The turning point of this World Cup tournament was the match between Brazil and Italy. The Brazilian players by nature play an attacking game and even though they only really needed a draw in this game, one never really expected them to play with that intention dominating their style of play. It is impossible for a side to change its attitude to the game, for this is something that is always developing. I would not say that their defeat was due to any bad planning by coach Tele Santana but because of the shortcomings of the players.

The Italians do a lap of honour with the world's most prized soccer trophy





Jubilant Italian fans, waving flags and chanting salute the winners

themselves. They made one very elementary tactical blunder.

They concentrated on the attack and seemed to ignore the basic need to fall back in defence whenever required. Tele Santana was literally shouting himself hoarse on the sidelines for his players to fall back, but they paid no heed to what he was saying. It was not surprising, then, that they paid the price for their folly.

Two of the goals that Italy scored against them in this match were literally gifts on a platter. One of these was a bad error on the part of the Brazilian goalkeeper, Waldi Peres. As is commonly known, South American custodians are traditionally weak, but this was really surprising. In particular, the second goal scored by Italy was one that I should like to describe, as this will amply illustrate the fashion in which the game was played. The Brazilians had possession of the ball and the right back and the right stopper back were passing between each other. In an attempt to find their own left stopper, they crossed the ball and here they made an elementary error.

While doing so, they failed to notice that the Italian danger man, Paolo Rossi was lurking in the area.

The latter obviously seized the chance, for it was clear that such a lapse on the part of the Brazilians would not come again in a hurry. He shot past Peres and that, literally,

was the last nail in the Brazilians' coffin.

Brazil did not deserve to emerge as the world champions. Any side that plays in such a fashion should be written off immediately. It is not just good football that makes a champion side. It is also one's approach to the game itself. One feels sorry for them but then, that is how soccer is played at the highest level. No team will allow you to make a mistake and get away with it. Playing the way they were, Brazil could not hope to take the trophy home. But they are a wonderful side and will be a threat for years to come.

They were a very carefree side during the whole tournament and that is what, in the ultimate analysis, brought about their downfall. At the same time, however, I would like to mention that I was very impressed with their second goal against Italy in the same encounter. In my opinion, it was the best goal of the World Cup. They were outnumbered in the situation, to start with, as there were only five Brazilians in the picture against seven Italians. Converting a situation like this is what counts and Brazil pulled this off with the style and panache that makes them such a difficult side to beat. Even though this itself was a brilliant goal, they should have exerted themselves that little bit more and had they succeeded in that, perhaps we would have witnessed a Brazil West Germany final instead.

Undoubtedly, Italy was a deserving side. They were by far the most cautious team. They were methodical and well organised and most important of all, they always gave the impression of playing well within themselves. They were an excellent side, yet they were not as attractive to watch as say, the Brazilians. They knew what their limitations were and they played according to this, organising their game and their tactics accordingly. In addition, they were the most effective side on view in Spain and in this respect, they were closely followed by both Poland and Russia.

Purely from the spectator viewpoint, the most attractive team to watch was, without a doubt, Brazil. However, France and Belgium did not lag far behind in this respect. Belgium played inspired football against the defending champions, Argentina in the opening encounter and that goal by the talented Frank Vandenberghe sealed the fate of Passarella's team. Vandenberghe has been performing consistently for his country and has been largely instrumental in Belgium's successes on the Continent and in Europe. His goal gave Belgium incredible impetus, but they did not quite fulfil expectations after that magnificent showing against Argentina.

I was very impressed by the manner in which the French handled their World Cup campaign. Though their players were shorter than the

other superstars on view, they never allowed this to handicap them. They were a hairsbreadth away from entering the final of the World Cup in that truly incredible match against West Germany, when they led 3-1 in extra time. But it was at this stage that the German coach, the experienced Jupp Derwall, brought Rummenigge into the fray. He had not played this man in the game, and was literally keeping him in reserve for a crisis. A crisis it was, and how magnificently this striker responded. It was patently clear to all and sundry that the French were the luckless victims of bad refereeing. During the sudden death, the West German goalkeeper Schumacher had begun to move before the ball was kicked, but the referee either failed to notice this or chose to overlook it. I think that the only people who

were not aware of this were the three officials in whose hands the match rested.

All goalkeepers have now started moving before the actual kick is taken, because the ball travels nearly double the speed of the custodian's reflexes. I can further illustrate this point with an example from the final itself. Once again, Schumacher was the offender. Italy's Cabrini took the penalty but the golden opportunity went abegging. He came in to take the kick from a very acute angle and Schumacher seemed to sense that the ball was going to enter the left side of the net. Accordingly, he began moving and Cabrini, sensing this, tried to place the ball even wider than the goalkeeper had anticipated. What happened is now history, but the fact that the ball went wide of the net is

not entirely the fault of Antonio Cabrini.

Another important fact that was amply borne out in Spain was that there are basically three different types of midfielders. The first can be classified as those players who are 75 per cent defensive and 25 per cent attackers. In this group, the most outstanding player was without doubt the Italian Claudio Gentile. He was the one who nullified the moves of the danger men, Maradona, Zico and Rummenigge. Had Gentile not been present, Italy would not have returned home with the Cup. He was not a very gentlemanly player, but he certainly did the job for Italy. I would rate Paul Breitner of West Germany as second to Gentile in this category. The second category of midfielders consisted of those who combined attack and defence in equal proportions and Ardiles was the most impressive here. The third category consists of those players who are 75 per cent attackers and 25 per cent defenders. Here it was the coloured Frenchman Jean Tigana who stood out.

The two countries that utilised their liberos to the best possible advantage were Italy and West Germany. Perhaps it is no mere coincidence that these were the two sides that met in the final. For the Italians, Scirea stood out, while Stielke played the hero's role for West Germany.

Countries like France played the 3-3-4 system, which is actually four defenders and a hind-sweeper.

THE two players who impressed me the most were Bruno Conti of Italy and the Argentine captain Daniel Passarella. The latter was head and shoulders above other attacking deep defenders. He can beat anybody to the ball and out-jump his opponents. Passarella was outstanding in the air. His accuracy of heading needs to be admired and I can think of at least six occasions when his headers hit the post. Just a word about Mario Kempes in my opinion, he is an overrated player, although he managed, with the help of a little luck, to score a few goals. Bruno Conti was irrepressible. He has the uncanny ability to play as a roving forward. He is as impressive on the wing as he is as a striker. Talking of strikers the two names that immediately come to mind are Zbigniew Boniek of Poland and the super star of Espana '82 Paolo Rossi. Boniek's hat-trick was one of the best ever seen in the history of the World Cup. Rossi, as many football critics have said, "smells" goals. He is not the tallest of players but nullifies this disadvantage by fine opportunism.

The only team that used a genuine positive winger were the West Germans, in the form of Pierre Littbarski. The youngest player of the World Cup Norman Whiteside was a re-

Italians Antonio Cabrini (left) and Claudio Gentile jubilate on top of three other team-mates after their side's third goal against West Germany in the final



freshing sight in the Irish forward-line

England played cup style football, and were so very different from other European teams I had read a lot about Ron Greenwood's boys and was a trifle disappointed with their performance. The English rely on the conversion of centres to score their goals. This is not always useful. In their match against Spain, there must have been at least 30 occasions when the English floated the ball into the opponent's penalty area from the wing. This method has its drawbacks. One must, however, admit that the English forwards tried very hard to make the best of their chances.

Many people, I am sure, will be wondering whether I am going to implement any of the moves and tactics for the Indian team. I will certainly try, but one cannot expect to change things overnight. A lot depends on the ability of the player himself and I sincerely hope that the players under me in the Indian team, keen, as they are, will benefit from my experiences in Spain. We must know how to organise our defence, attack at the right moment and interchange positions. A day will soon come when football will be played with all players, except the goalkeeper, moving up and down the field, as is done on a basketball court.

Coming back to the World Cup under review, it was really unfortunate that Argentina, Brazil and Italy found themselves in the same group in the final round. Here Italy pulled off the two biggest upsets of the tournament. Cameroon, Kuwait and Algeria turned on brilliant performances. I fully sympathise with Algeria, as Germany and Austria conspired to keep them out of the second round. Even patriotic Germans felt that the match was fixed, football had been raped. The Kuwaiti attack was very impressive but they would have reaped richer harvest if they played with a tidy defence.

A very important difference between Indian football and that which I saw in the World Cup was the fact that unlike us the attackers play very important roles in defence. Even a striker tackles very hard and at no stage lets up. On many an occasion we saw Zico and Boniek tackling even harder than what our Indian defenders do. Another essential difference between the different approaches to football is best illustrated when we consider the role of coaches. Here in India—not that I am complaining—the coach does not always have the final say. Abroad, however, the coaches of teams have absolute authority, and this is what I particularly want to stress. He chalks out his programme, his assistants—everything is left up to him and no one interferes. The whole function-

ing of the team—strategy, tactics and moves all worked out by the coach. The success of the team revolves around him. Take Enzo Bearzot for an example. We all know very well that it was he who played the most important part in the Italian triumph in Madrid. The victory was the culmination of many years of hard labour put in by Enzo, who is an introvert by nature with a picture of melancholy his major trait. Remember the Italians were the only team to beat Argentina, the victors of the 1978 Finals in Buenos Aires and once again the Italian coach played his part efficiently. He is a highly respected man and I am indeed happy that he packed the glittering World Cup safely in his bag on the plane back from Madrid.

The Finals for me was an unforget-

able experience and I am already looking forward to Columbia. As much as I detest making predictions, the next World Cup winners will most probably be from South America. Brazil might after all redeem themselves four years from now.

More than anything else this World Cup exemplified the direction being taken by the game. In Europe, the greatest emphasis is on the line of defence. This was clearly borne out by the style of play of the champions, who were fastest off the mark when it came to attack. The other continental sides lacked this speed. The Latin American teams played a far more positive game and their greatest asset was that their players were all capable of innovation.

In the opinion of a number of soccer fans, the disappointment of

What a goal! Zico stuns the crowd—and the opposition—with his precise overhead kick to score the first of his team's four goals against New Zealand. His second followed barely two minutes later.



the World Cup was the talented Argentinian, Diego Maradona. Inevitably, he has been compared with Pele, but the latter was a hypnotic, extremely deceptive player whereas Maradona is a modern footballer in every sense of the term.

He lurks in midfield, slightly behind the forwards, in the fashion of Pele during the Mexico World Cup. I would say that Maradona is the faster of the two but it is impossible to assert that one or the other is more skilful. The game is constantly changing and it has changed since the era of Pele so comparing these two players is a tricky task that is best left alone.

Maradona had a very good year in 1981 and judging by all accounts, he really had some good matches. Just before the World Cup he was in tremendous form even though there were rumours that he was suffering from a groin injury. One does not know what exactly went wrong with him in Spain, but he is far from finished. He is the sort of player who is always doing something on the field either initiating an attack or breaking up a raid by the opposing forwards. He does not believe in playing at less than optimum speed, which is really amazing when you consider how fast the game is. He is very, very fast on his feet and there can be no two opinions about that.

Since he is always so much a part of the game, this places a great deal of pressure on the opponents, who have to deploy at least two and sometimes three men to keep him in check. This in turn means that Maradona's colleagues have less pressure on them as he is constantly drawing away the opposition. The influence he has on any game is astounding, for he is not content with one or two moves. He is a gamemaker and has been clocked as running nine miles in a match. And one should not lose sight of the fact that all this is being done at top speed.

He is short for a footballer but he is simply explosive. There can be no other word for it. There is not an ounce of fat on his frame and he is well muscled. Because he is so short, his turning circle has a very small radius and he is at his most dangerous when turning with the ball. His reflexes are wonderful and his anticipation is so good that it has prompted critics and opponents alike to say that he has eyes at the back of his head.

A slight crack in the defence is fatal when Maradona is around, for he seems to smell them out like a well-trained bloodhound. He moves goalward and if he finds that he is in danger he passes to a colleague. His sense of positioning is so uncanny that he is almost always in a zone from which he can score. Suffice it to say that even when Maradona does not have the ball, he is the most dangerous man on the field.



West German Uli Steike shows his grief after missing a penalty during the final moments of his side's game against France. He was one of the most sensational Germans on view.

IN Spain we were privileged to watch several great forwards in action, but of them all, the best in my estimation was the brilliant Pole, Zbigniew Boniek. Playing his normal game, he is awesome, under pressure he is a colossus. The greater the tension, the more dangerous his game.

He was a constant source of terror in his country's game against Belgium and literally blazed through the match, ending with a hat-trick. His amazing ball speed on the run enables him to cut through a defence line like a knife through butter,

leaving panic in his wake. He has good ball control and is a superb dribbler but most important of all at this level of soccer, he is not afraid of tackles. If his absence was a pity for us, the spectators, during his side's crucial semi-final encounter with Italy, it was nothing short of a tragedy for his team mates.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who was voted the European Footballer of the Year in 1981, also impressed with his ability to penetrate the defence with his sudden darting moves. His verve and drive combine to make him unstoppable when the mood is on



Scirea of Italy (No. 6) clears
the ball to foil West Germany's
Littbarski (No. 7)

him. Until the semi-final he and Bonin were the joint top scorers, with four goals each, but he was dozed by an opponent throughout the tournament and did not have the opportunity to shine at his very best.

It is a fact that a forward should make the most of scoring every time he has a chance. Any forward worth his salt knows that success or failure depends on the ability to create a situation where one is in a position to score. This often means working up to a goal before attempting to put a shot at goal. In this respect, three names stand out prominently: Socrates and Foder of Brazil and Aldo Rossi of Italy. All three men are the length of their bodies to trap the ball and move forward, a trait that makes them highly unpredictable. They seldom—if ever—use the same tactic twice in any particular match and no one can always tell what they are going to do.

Both Brazilians, Socrates and Foder, are equally capable of holding their own against two or even three defenders but more important than this is their innate ability to work from deep inside their own territory. Rossi is not as skillful in this respect as the Brazilians, but he is a treat to watch on his long runs with the ball, which he usually makes along the flank.

Even with regard to ball control, he is not as talented as the Brazilians, but he is just as attractive and dangerous. Against Brazil—an encounter that was as spectacular as it was important—he rose to the occasion and covered himself in glory with that hat trick.

The Pole, Lato, also deserves mention. He is an interesting player who works from midfield onto the wing position either to float centres or move towards the goalmouth. His finish is not as classic as the others I have spoken of, but he is a delightful player to watch.

The Englishman, Paul Mariner, is another forward who is an asset to his side, finishing powerfully on every occasion. Not for him any half-hearted attempts. He believes in giving it his best and he does so every time. No demand is too great for him. If his team needs Mariner, he is always there and they can rely on him to give his utmost time and again without complaining about the burden.

Mariner is a rarity in the sense that he takes tremendous risks up front. He is the sort of aggressive player who would much rather charge towards the ball than wait for it to come to him. Instead, it is precisely this aggression that can spell the all-important difference between defeat and victory.

The Frenchman, Alain Giresse, is a withdrawn forward of undoubted calibre and with his controlled speed and accurate passing, a threat every-



Rossi puts his head down to put in the first goal of the final for Italy and his sixth in succession in the tournament.

time he starts a run, regardless of whether or not he is in possession of the ball.

Litbarski of West Germany impressed me greatly as a genuine winger. His speed on the flanks is, to use a hackneyed expression, breathtaking and his accuracy has to be seen to be believed. He believes that it is his duty as much as it is anyone else's, to take possession of the ball, grabbing it from the opposition but his chief drawback is that, in a confined space, he gives the impression that he is cramped and cannot do very much.

Unpretentious Northern Ireland fielded two impressive players in captain Martin O'Neil and the youngster, Norman Whiteside. The former is one of those never say-die players who refuses to give up even when the opposition is converging on him. He never lets slip an opportunity to have a crack at goal. Whiteside could, if he is well utilised—blossom into a very effective attacking player. It was a good sign that his form got better as the tournament progressed and if I am not mistaken, we shall be hearing a lot more of him in the near future.

AMONG the midfielders, the Frenchman Michel Platini who came to Spain with quite a formidable reputation, did not find his rhythm to start with. However, he soon came into his own and enter-

tained the crowds no end. He controls the midfield in addition to which he dictates the trend of the attack. Against Northern Ireland, he was always at the heart of the action and thanks to his interception and scoring abilities, his side emerged triumphant to become one of the strongest contenders for the Cup.

England's Bryan Robson moves well and is a very powerful player who is very fast on his feet. He played consistently for his side and perhaps could have changed the outcome of the Group B matches if he had been given better support by his forwards.

One player who demonstrated tremendous control over the static ball was the outstanding Brazilian, Zico. His body is unbelievably supple, allowing him to manoeuvre a shot from almost any angle. He is very agile and fast. His one drawback, however, is a tendency to show off and this sometimes leads to scoring opportunities being missed.

As a game maker, he is exceptional. He passes very accurately, reminding one of that great forebear, Pele. One gets the distinct impression that he can pass the ball almost anywhere, to anyone, without even having to look in the necessary direction.

But, without a doubt, the best midfield player on view in the World Cup was the Argentinian Osvaldo Ardiles, who has been playing in

England for Tottenham Hotspur, the team that won the FA Cup last year and again this year. This player's acceleration literally leaves his opponents standing and the manner in which he controls proceedings in midfield is awesome. His greatest asset is that he is blessed with the ability to cling to the ball against all odds and he does so even in the most incredible of situations. He clings to that ball like a leech.

As far as natural ability is concerned, Ardiles is in a class of his own, for his every move bears the stamp of genius. As if all this is not enough, he is also a very brave player and just refuses to give up, even in the most trying of situations. At any given time, he was the focal point of the attack and the pivot of the defence. One would have to go a long way back in soccer history to find his equal.

WHEN one broaches the subject of the best defenders at Spain, the name that comes foremost to mind is that of the Argentinian captain, Daniel Passarella, who literally stood out head and shoulders above the rest. His game is greatly superior to that of the others; in fact he is far ahead of his time. It is an experience

in itself to watch him in action, so accomplished is he in terms of fitness, stamina, anticipation and control.

Not content merely with masterminding his team's defence, he also moved up frequently into the attack, literally playing the role of innspring. Whenever his team attacked, Passarella was at hand, ready to deliver the coup de grace and finish the move or to pass to a colleague lying unmarked. His heading was a treat to watch and it was so very obvious that his team-mates strove to direct their corner kicks towards him. In the match against Brazil, though, he bore too heavy a burden and though at no stage in the game did he give up or waver in determination, it was apparent that he was being asked to do too much.

The coloured Frenchman, Marioo Trezor, also impressed me with his positional play and the way he commanded the defence. He is getting on in age; he is about 32 years old but he is big and strong. He always gave his best and was ruthless in his tackles, for he was well aware of how much depended on him. If he failed, the chances were that the goalkeeper would be left stranded and this burden must have had some sort of

psychological effect on him. He is the sort of defender who does not move upfield, but his confidence and power are a constant source of inspiration to his colleagues.

Gerard Janvion, the other Frenchman, is another defender of note. He is a more flexible player, who is always on the prowl, ready to break up an attack and quite prepared to move upfield to initiate a move for his own side. He did both jobs with ease and distinction throughout the tournament and his footwork, which so dazzled the spectators, must surely have been a constant and nagging source of irritation to his opponents.

Terry Butcher, the Englishman, came to Spain with quite a reputation and certainly proved that he is not short on confidence. He is a courageous tackler and he covers his zone excellently.

Ulrike Stielke of West Germany, started off well and certainly in the opening stages of the tournament was the best sweeper on view. He seemed to have the knack of being in the right position at the right time, a tribute to his fitness as well as his anticipation. He never caved in under pressure and he certainly has a few good years ahead of him while wearing West Germany's colours. Paul Breitner also impressed with the manner in which he snuffed out attacks. He is ever the tough tackler and it is virtually impossible for any player to get the better of him in a one-on-one situation.

Italy's left back, Antonio Cabrini, played consistently and also performed well when he moved up to help the forwards. Despite the fact that he is basically a defender, he definitely relished the task of moving up and his presence seemed to have an effect on the rival defenders.

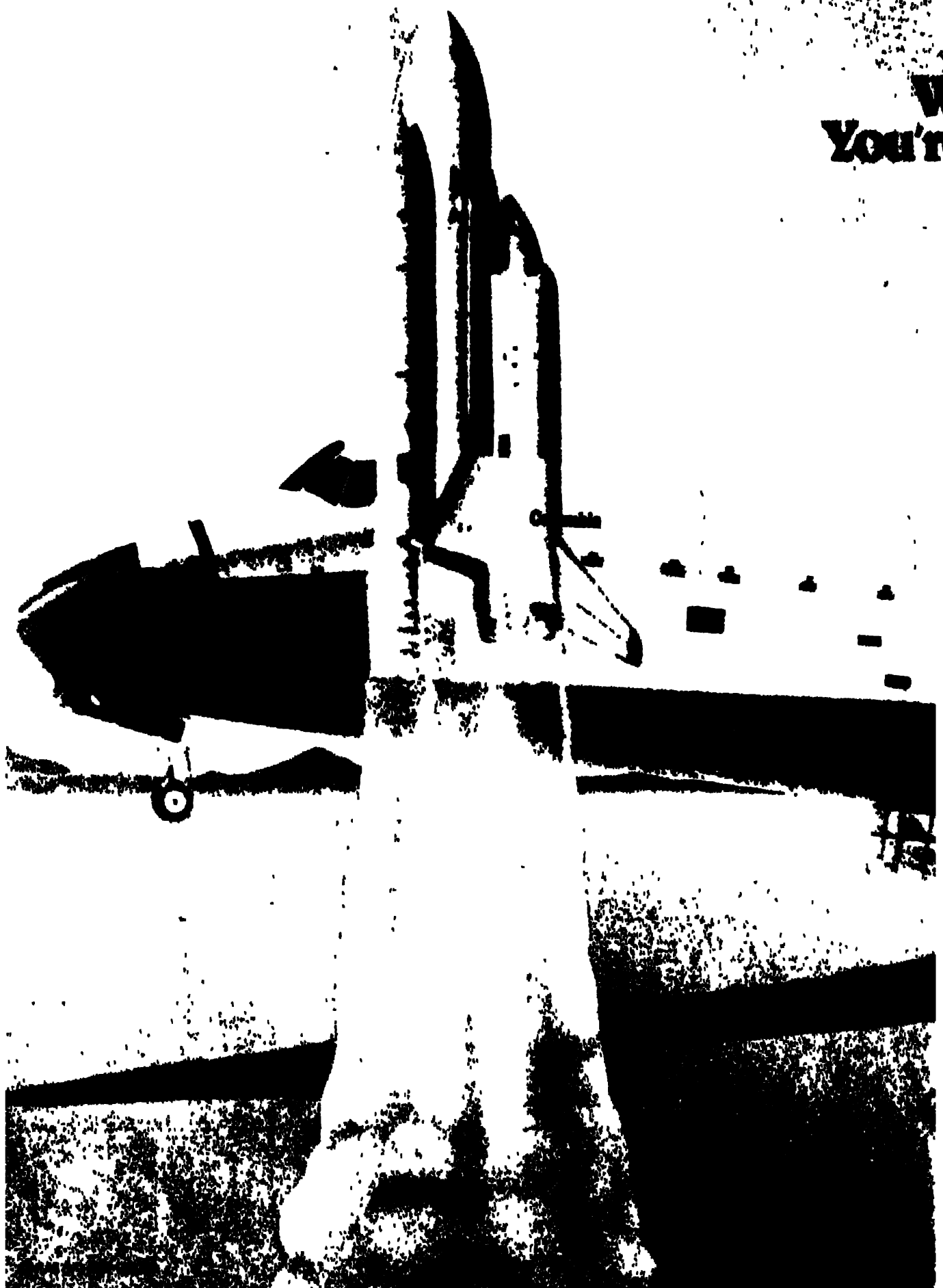
Of the goalkeepers the greatest on view was without a doubt the great Italian veteran Dino Zoff, who must surely be something of a legend in his own country. He is so cool and calm that he never gives the impression of being flustered no matter what the game is like. Against favourites Brazil, his performance was simply out of this world. You can never be sure of a goal against him until the ball has actually entered the net and it is not often that this happens.

Dassaev, the Soviet custodian, could perhaps even rise to emulate his illustrious predecessor, Yashin. The Soviet defence line was so well organised that he seldom faced any real threat, but when the need arose, he was always at hand to save the situation. Two other goalkeepers who had a good tournament were the Pole, Jozsef Mlynarczyk and England's Peter Shilton. The latter's greatest asset seems to be his uncanny sixth sense, which enables him to bring off amazing saves just when all seems lost.

Soviet goalkeeper Dassaev clears from Brazil's Zico. The former could become another Lev Yashin given some experience.



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Where Argentina went wrong

THE odds against a country winning the World Cup twice in succession are so high that none but the inveterate gambler would have entertained hopes of an Argentine victory in Spain. But for the 1978 champions to sink away in disgrace, failing to reach the semi-final stage of the 24 nation competition, was a disaster even their worst enemies could not have imagined.

Manager Cesar Menotti was so stunned he couldn't speak and thousands of Argentines watching the television in disbelief in Buenos Aires were so dismayed that they couldn't even be angry. And to rub salt into this grievous wound, their star player, billed the best in the world, was sent off in their last appearance in the World Cup.

Actually, the Argentines were defeated before they arrived in Barcelona for the inaugural match of the championship which, by convention has to feature the holders. And there were several telling reasons.

The first was the one kept by a bank of the Press in Madrid and London.

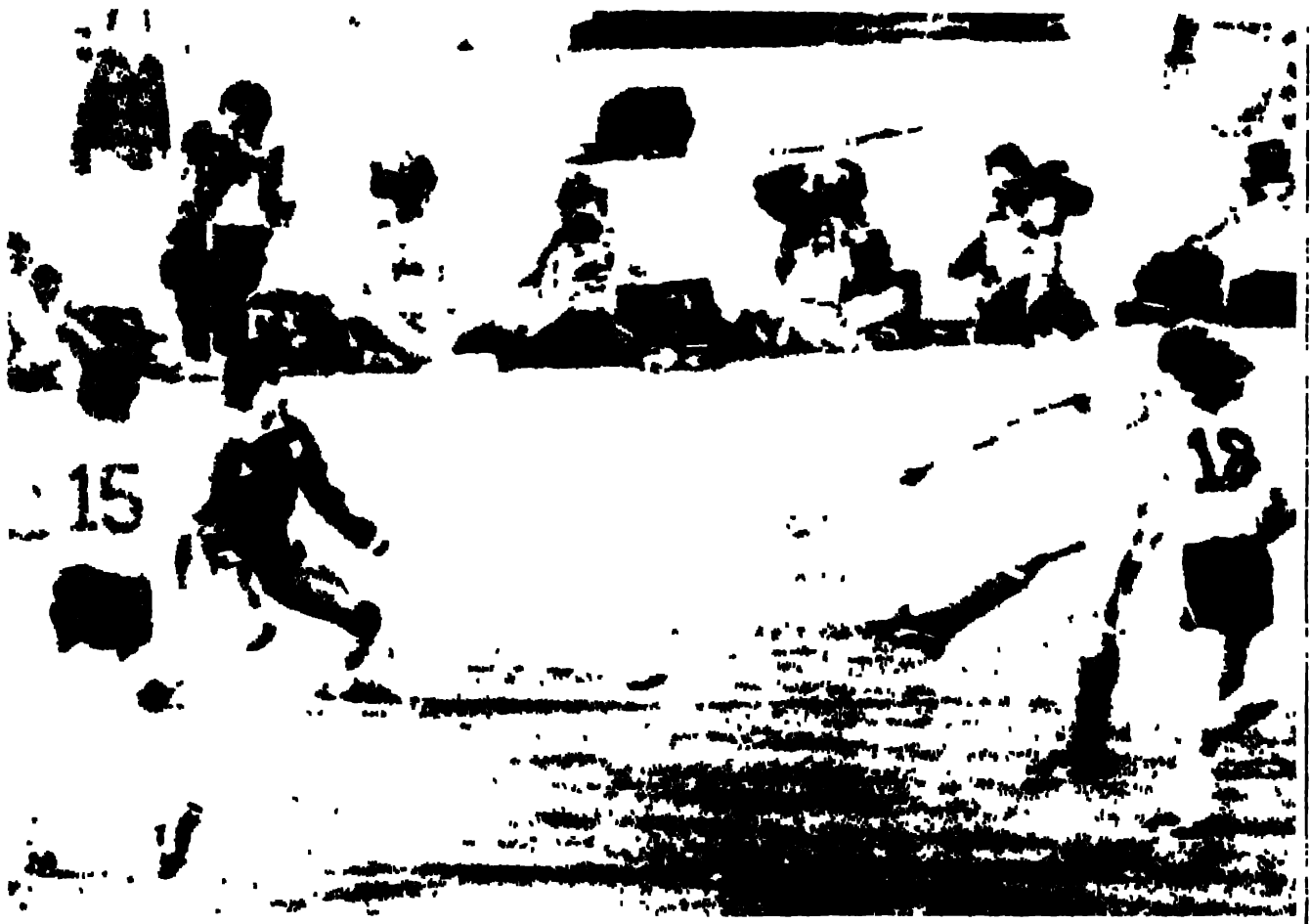
While it was hard to visualise Argentina's performance if the Falklands war had not started, it was clear that the players were upset by the events at home. And the Falklands fell just before they fell to a red-shirted, almost arrogant Belgium at the Nou Camp Stadium. Although Menotti did not encourage his players to give interviews, it was clear that there was no peace of mind. It was an embarrassing moment in the history of the country and that feeling naturally percolated down to the footballers. And they were not aided in overcoming it, because an estimated 10,000 Argentines, expected to cheer their team to victory in Spain, cancelled their trip to Barcelona at the last minute. Even though the Spaniards, who have more than a language connection with the South Americans, began by cheering them lustily, they did not sustain that effort once they realised they were not backing the right horse.

But perhaps the most telling

reason for their debacle—it was nothing short of that—was the fact that the 1978 squad had aged to imperfection. They were no longer as sharp and incisive as they were at home four years ago and the years certainly told on their stamina, aided, naturally, by the heat and humidity of the Spanish summer.

The most outstanding goalkeeper of '78, Fillol, was past 30 and captain Daniel Passarella was not getting younger either. There were seven others whom Menotti kept in the regular squad. But none of them could meet up with the demands of a punishing World Cup campaign and fitness soon became a cause for concern.

Performance-wise, the Argentines were no hot shots in the Eighties. Apart from a World Youth Cup victory in 1980, Menotti had little to offer as evidence of a great side. In the summer of 1980, his team played three matches in Europe. It lost to England, beat Austria and Ireland,





Cesar Menotti—empty optimism

but did not show up the team in good light. Last year, his preparations included matches in Italy and Spain, but against club sides. This was intended to expose the players afresh to European, especially Spanish conditions. But these were of no help. He did not get the services of the players for any great stretch of time—except from early this year—and he found very little fresh talent that could inject new blood into an ageing stream.

History, too, was against Argentina. Italy, who weren't even pretenders to the world crown, had not lost once against them in the last seven encounters, which included the 1978 pool match in which Argentina came out losers. Brazil had a more impressive record. In nine matches before this World Cup, Argentina had managed to draw only three and failed to win even once.

It was, therefore, with little more than "empty optimism" that Cesar Luis Menotti claimed on arrival in Spain: "We are here to take back the World Cup." Egged on by this belief—and supported by nothing more than sheer bravado—the Argentine took the field against the famed red devils (a name that has stuck with the Belgians ever since they started their not so distinguished World Cup campaign in 1930). And even after Vercauteren and Vandenberg had plundered and pillaged their penalty area, they could not recapture even a little of their 1978 form. It was only after they moved to Alicante's Jose Rico Perez Stadium that they recovered their composure. On June 18, five days after the opening disaster, they showed glimpses of their true potential when they beat Hungary 4-1. But the key factor here was the Hungarians' self-confidence, born out of the record-breaking 10-1 victory over El Salvador and the basic error of allowing Diego Maradona room to manoeuvre. But, to that, later

By the third match, they were again in trouble. And, had it not been for the controversial Passarella penalty, which gave them the first of their two goals, their game against El Salvador could have ended in another disaster. This victory, however, took them to the fact that by not living up to the seeding they received, they found themselves in the same group as Brazil and Italy. The last named had had an indifferent showing in the first stage, so the Argentines were already working out the strategies to be worked out in the encounter with Brazil. But they met Italy first and were promptly pulverised. Italy played superbly, finding their touch late, but revelling in it—and recording their first victory in the tournament to boot.

The Italian strategy was almost flawless. They started out by putting Gentile on Maradona, with specific instructions to stop him anyhow. And the deep defender did that very well, though he did stretch things a bit when he elbowed the diminutive 'genius' in the face. But he was effective and that is what professionalism is all about. Gentile was not the only one, though. The Italians seemed to adopt the policy of niggling their opponents until they forgot football and indulged in a war of attrition.

Once this was established, and once the Argentines resolved to pay them back in their own coin, the Italians began to play football again. This was too much for the South Americans who found themselves two goals down. A late free kick conversion by Passarella was obviously not enough.

The Argentines then concentrated on the Brazil match, hoping that the latter would then lose to Italy by a bigger margin to allow them to enter the semi-finals. But, of course, this never happened. Instead the Brazilians played their best game of the tournament. After teasing and tormenting the Argentines in the first half, the Brazilians beat them 3-1. One Maradona was clearly not enough. And Argentina had the dubious distinction of having in their ranks two players who were summarily dismissed from the ground—Americo Gallego and Diego Maradona himself, the first in the game with Italy and the second in what turned out to be their last match.

Apart from their political mishap and the ageing of players, the Argentines under Menotti obviously did not prepare well enough for the World Cup. It was clear that they did not study the games of their opponents. It was also clear that Tarantini, manning the left side of the deep defence, was not restrained from moving upfield by Menotti. He proved a constant source of danger to his own side when the chips were down, though he did play a useful role in moulding attacks from be-



Mario Kempes—in poor form

hind. The woeful lack of form of Mario Kempes was another factor that weighed heavily on Maradona, who was left largely to fend for himself. Only Osvaldo Ardiles stood out, trying to tie the loose ends of the defence together and feed his forwards at the same time. Passarella did have his moments of glory, but he failed to galvanise his team into an instrument of attack.

Maradona's was a tale of woe. He was heralded into the World Cup as the biggest star. But the managers of other teams worked out their own plans for him. Throughout their campaign, Maradona found himself being shadowed by one, sometimes two players. And he was never given much room to manoeuvre. To add to his misery, he found that he could not reach the dizzy heights he had so quickly climbed in four years. But in fairness, one has to admit that if ever a count was taken, it would be clear that he was the most fouled against player in the tournament—though one has to add in the same breath that this is the lot of every player who distinguishes himself. And players like Pele had to suffer much more. Pele was literally kicked out of the campaign in England in 1966, when Brazil made an early exit. So, that was the sorry tale of Argentina. Of course, Menotti will be sacked. So will some of the players. But Menotti would himself have quit—with a firm offer from FC Valencia in his pocket. And the players themselves will find several places to go to—Europe or the North American soccer league bases.

But how far will sacking go to rearing another world-beating team? Argentina will have to look to the set of youngsters (Maradona included) who won the World Youth competition in 1980 and, of course, another manager. But where will they get that spark of inspiration that led to the Buenos Aires triumph? It was nowhere in evidence in Spain.



*Pietro Vierchowod
and Bernd Foster
of West Germany*

The Mohammedan Sporting muddle

SUBHASH SARCAR

WHEN the need of the hour is to maintain a side comprising as many regular players as possible, Mohammedan Sporting found themselves with no other option but to suspend two of their stalwarts. The suspension of Pem Dorji and the Iranian Jamshed Nasirri has weakened both the defence as well as the forward line but the hard line taken by the club in question, is for many, a welcome departure from the time when leading players were considered indispensable.

Had this been solely a decision on the part of the Indian Football Association league sub-committee, it would have been another matter altogether, but the defending league champions have certainly established a new trend in disciplinary action.

Both players had recently taken the law into their own hands during their side's encounter against formidable Railway F.C. and now have had to face the consequences by sitting out on the sidelines for the rest of the league. Mohammedan Sporting's action, though it has weakened the side, is indeed a unique example which other sides would do well to follow.

In the past, it has been the general practice among the leading clubs that offenders have been allowed to get away scot free, no matter what their misdemeanours were. The reason was fairly obvious: clubs did not dare take the chance of incurring the wrath of their star players, for fear that the latter would lose all interest in their subsequent matches. In the highly competitive atmosphere of soccer on the Calcutta maidan, it was perhaps a natural corollary, but one that, all the same, had rather frightening results.

And when clubs have taken action against erring players—such instances have been all too rare—it has made little or no difference at all in the ultimate analysis. It is a well established fact that leading players resort to gamesmanship and other tactics and it often happens that a referee or linesman overlooks—intentionally or even otherwise—infractions on the part of certain players. But very often the players have made it difficult for themselves by virtue of their questionable be-

haviour on the soccer field. Such tactics have often led to violence off the field, with disastrous consequences. The atmosphere on the maidan is electrically charged as it is, and does not need any other outside elements to aggravate the situation.

A few days before the incident featuring Dorji and Nasirri, there was another similar situation during the Mohun Bagan Calcutta Gymkhana match. Seasoned campaigner Surjit Sengupta entered a wordy duel with the referee, Ajoy Lahiri, who earned the wrath of the spectators for having overlooked some of the infringements during the game in question. Things were bad enough, but they did not end there. After the match, Sengupta charged towards Lahiri with his jersey in his hand and it was clear from his attitude that he was not exactly making friendly overtures. The referee managed to get out of what would definitely have been a rather tricky situation, thanks to the timely intervention of his colleagues and certain club officials.

An ugly scene after RFC scored against Mohammedan S.C.



The match in question was a fairly rough one, which finished blank, however. As if that was not bad enough for the Mohun Bagan supporters, a penalty was sacrificed to add insult to injury and so it was expected that missiles would be the order of the day. Sure enough, this is precisely what happened. This brings one to a very important point. The so-called junior clubs are gradually beginning to prove that they are far from being the virtual underdogs that everyone considers them to be. They are gradually coming into their own and as they find their confidence and then form, it is only but natural that they should provide stiff opposition for the three big clubs.

In the recent past, trouble has almost always brewed after a close match between a big club and a junior outfit. A scoreless encounter causes even more worry. The question is why should this be the case? What is even more worrying is the fact that supporters of the big clubs come to every game expecting their team to go home triumphant. Such a notion in itself is harmless, but when the end product of a close encounter is needless violence, there is something drastically wrong somewhere.

When Railway F.C. played Mohammedan Sporting and scored a delightful goal through Sanjib Dey, all hell was let loose. Indeed, this was the worst incident since that black day at the Eden Gardens two years ago, when sixteen spectators lost their lives. These are all symptoms of a very dangerous malady.

It is clear to all and sundry, including the casual observer, that Mohammedan Sporting have been going through a very bad patch as far as

championship form is concerned. It was a foregone conclusion some time ago that the reigning league champions were out of the running for the top honours this year, thanks in no small measure to inconsistency and some off-colour performances by leading players who were expected to carry the team through.

There was trouble brewing within the club and the officials were not slow to realise this. But the point is that if they did take any steps to defuse the situation, which was worsening all the time, it was not apparent to the observer.

Could the incident involving Dorji and Nasirri have been averted if Mohammedan Sporting president Erfan Taher have been present? The question has often been raised in the days following the incident and the suspension, but it is difficult to answer, one way or another, for such discussion is mere hypothesis. It is well known that the president is a strict disciplinarian who brooks no misbehaviour on the part of leading players or otherwise. Another question that has been frequently heard is whether it was his presence that led to the suspension of the two players. Again, difficult to comment on.

When the Mohammedan Sporting football secretary, Ghulam Mustafa, was asked to comment on whether any political pressure had been

brought to bear on the club, he responded. "Why should anyone pressurise us? Nothing of the sort happened. As a matter of fact, we were thinking of taking action ourselves the day after the incident, so the question of pressure does not arise. The only problem was that since the president and general secretary of the club were both out of town, so there was little we could do. We could not take a decision. Indeed, it came as something of a shock to us all to learn that the IFA president had decided to suspend the club, only hours after the incident took place. He should have waited to read the referee's report before making such a statement. That is why we were waiting to see what further action the IFA president was going to take."

But what about the hasty action on the part of the players in question? Replied Mr. Mustafa: "The players had no business to manhandle the linesman. They should have realised that and gone about things in the proper fashion. When we realised that Jamshed was getting upset we went to cool him down, but as soon as the linesman came into the centre of the field, Pem Dorji lost his head. This was indeed regrettable. Of course, it happened in the heat of the moment, but it does not mean that they will be allowed to get away with something like this. We had already

decided to ban them after the incident but we had to wait for the final say."

"In a special meeting it was unanimously decided by the president and all others present that the players would be suspended for the rest of the league matches. However, both players will be expected to turn out for practice with the rest of the team. Don't forget that we have the IFA Shield ahead of us. Yes, I agree that their suspension has weakened the team to a certain extent, but this could not be helped. Ultimately, it means that there will be a greater burden on skipper Moidul Islam and the others, who will have to exert themselves more to cover up for the absence of their colleagues," he said.

It certainly needed drastic action to enforce discipline or else things were in danger of getting out of hand. Why was there that unseemly incident when RFC had scored that goal? The media praised it as a gem of a goal. Said referee Pradip Nag after the match: "There are no two opinions about that goal."

This was not the first time in the history of the Calcutta maidan that Jamshed had given vent to his irritation on the field. Even when he wore East Bengal colours, he was well known for his outbursts. In this incident, it was because of his kicking and jostling of Dipak Bhattacharjee that the galleries erupted. That was



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the first sign of impending trouble. The police had to go into action to clear the stands and club officials had to intervene so that play could be resumed. However, some officials were mistakenly beaten up in the process. "We called an emergency meeting the next day with the West Bengal Deputy Speaker Kalmuddin Shams as our special invitee so as to apprise him of the police action. We wanted him to arrange that the Chief Minister and the Sports Minister should arrange a series of meetings for us," stated the football secretary. It was also at this stage that the club threatened to withdraw from the league.

The club officials then had a meeting with the Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu and the Sports Minister, Mr Subhas Chakraborty and the police. It was decided at this meeting that peace would be maintained at all costs and that the players would be specially asked to behave themselves in view of the situation. The followup led to the unanimous decision on the part of the IFA league subcommittee and the club to suspend the two players. But is this any guarantee that there will be no repetition of violence when a big team plays a lesser side?

In the words of Mr Mustafi, "whether we win or lose or draw, we will behave in a manner expected of true sportsmen. Further, we have decided that any player who misbehaves will be debared. I think this attitude is going to instil a sense of fear and respect among the players. You can see from this that our president is a strict disciplinarian," he asserted.

To go back a little in the club's history, it was felt last year after their league triumph that they would be back on top again this year. This has not proved to be the case, at least in their league engagements. In the long run last year's triumph would seem to have been a very expensive proposition for the club. In the words of one club official, who voiced his sentiments before the league got under way, "When a side spends so much on a team, one expects that there should be some measure of success, but this has not been the case so far. We gave our players whatever they wanted, all the facilities they asked for, but the returns have not been satisfactory. If we cannot get the best out of our best players, it is better to concentrate only on forming a team that is merely capable of beating Aryan or Rajasthan."

The first signs of the drastic slump had come during the Trichur Nationals. Both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan had sent feelers to the Mohammedan SC players about joining their respective folds. The reigning champions sat back to witness another exodus and the club was literally back to square one. Their star players went to the highest bidders and the club was out in the



RFC's Kishore Mukherjee hurls a stone back into the gallery during their drawn tie with Mohun Bagan

wilderness once more, dwarfed by the talent in the other two rival sides. It seemed that they were not taking an active interest in retaining the men who had done duty for them and won back the league honours after so many years of futile attempts. Perhaps the financial drain was eventually taking its toll on the coffers of the champion club. They were by now reduced to scouting around the maidan to induce players of the smaller clubs to join their ranks. True, the juniors in question were undoubtedly talented and promising but it was somewhat of a comedown for the Mohammedan Sporting officials. It was no secret that the top brass of the club were not in the city. Had they been present, perhaps they could have captured some of the rising stars who had promised earlier to play for the black-and-whites.

When asked to comment on this, the football secretary said "We had to sacrifice the idea of a really good side because our annual general meeting was delayed as the president and secretary were both away from Calcutta at the time. We only began our drive to recruit players a mere ten or fifteen days before the transfer season ended, by which time the major negotiations were already over."

"Since we were left with limited options, we had to approach the three Iranians in order to assure ourselves of a team of some standing at least. However, we were actually having second thoughts about them, but we did not have much room to manoeuvre. We took them in on the assumption that they were still in form and could produce the kind of soccer we required of them. Honestly speaking, though, we have not been satisfied with the way in which they have performed so far."

It is food for thought that the induc-


tion of the Iranians caused some controversy within the club circles and at least one important person resigned his post while some others decided to take a different approach and stay aloof from club affairs.

With affairs at such a pitch, NIS coach Saeed Nayeemuddin was given the reins of the team and expected to produce the goods. It is a well known fact that he is a strict disciplinarian who means business, and one cannot help but wonder if this is one of the reasons for the team's inconsistent performance thus far.

Said Mr Mustafi when asked to comment on this, "Nayeem is a strict coach and we are very happy with him. The boys are practising every day but it is something of a mystery as to why they are not performing up to expectations during the matches. As for the rumour that there is a rift between the Iranians and the rest of my players, there is absolutely no truth in it. The players themselves have no complaints whatever about the Iranians staying separately, because this has been the arrangement from the very beginning." But whether anyone admits it or not, there is a rift somewhere within the club functioning, or else it would not be so apparent.

With regard to the members they are not too happy about the way the team has been performing. To some extent, they have been placated by the return of Latifuddin, which, it is presumed, they view as some compensation for the Jamshed incident.

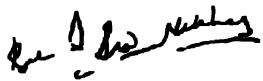
It was sad indeed that some of the members were injured by the police action that day on the maidan. But this might not have happened at all had the action not taken place in the ramparts. At the time of going to press, it was in the hands of the league subcommittee to take a decision on the fate of the match.



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CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Bagan suffers another setback

Mohammedan Sporting did not play any matches in the week under review. However, East Bengal registered two polished victories, while Mohun Bagan dropped another point and fell further behind in the race for top honours. SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL and DEREK O'BRIEN report on the matches

MOHUN BAGAN Lassitude reigned courtesy the home team. The spectators did not need flowers of the Lotus Eaters to put them into a spell of drowsiness on two sultry afternoons. The pathetic football dishied out by the Federation Cup champions was sufficient opiate.

The maroon-and-green-shirted men played two matches in the week under review, both against teams whose ideas of 'success' rest on the lower rungs of the Calcutta First Division ladder. Shyam Thapa's men

in their first outing after the defeat at the hands of East Bengal took on the none too impressive Bata Sports Club and were lucky to prevail by a solitary goal. However, a dejected Mohun Bagan side dropped their fourth point of the League when Wari held them to a dreary goalless draw later in the week.

Mohun Bagan have now played fourteen matches and it will not take the wisest of critics to predict that last year's Calcutta League runners up are out of the race. In the last four

matches they have scored just two goals—two solitary goal wins over Bata S C and Sporting Union coupled with their goalless draw against Wari and the loss against East Bengal.

Against Bata S C Mohun Bagan did without the services of three of their stalwarts. Skipper Shyam Thapa was running a temperature, Shivaji Banerjee was resting and Subroto Bhattacharya paying the penalty for receiving yellow cards in the two previous matches. The absence of these players, undoubtedly, affected the team's performance, but what is worse is that the Mohun Bagan balloon of morale was punctured after going down to East Bengal.

It was not that the Bata boys put in a sterling performance to minimise the Bagan win, but instead Mohun Bagan played football which would not even do a lesser known side proud.

In the 23rd minute an Amit Bagchi attempt hit the Bata crosspiece and four minutes later Amitava Mukherjee's header was well collected by the Bata goalkeeper Rathin Sinha Roy. The latter also gave a good account of himself in the second half. Four minutes into the second half Rathin dived to deflect Krishanu Dev's grounder and a few moments later he nipped a Surajit Sengupta try in the bud. The glamour team got a few stray chances as the game took its dreary course. In the 63rd minute Gautam Sarkar pushed the ball to Surajit who in turn found Amit. The



Bata goalkeeper manages to wrest the ball from Krishanu Dev



Tapan Das sends the ball past a Barsha defender for a goal.

lanky Bagchi found the left hand corner of the net after the ball had deflected off a Bata defender "Rathin Sinha Roy had the ball covered," said Bata coach Tamal Sen after the match, "and it was unfortunate that the ball deflected—it was a fluke goal."

MOHUN BAGAN could indeed have done with another such fluke in their second outing of the week against Wari Athletic Club, when they were held to a goalless draw. Shyam Thapa's men should consider themselves lucky that they managed to salvage a point as the young Wari team certainly enjoyed the major share of the exchanges.

Dilip Paul once again took Shivaji Banerjee's place, Surajit Sengupta did not want to aggravate his weak knee, Denis Williamson had pulled a hamstring, and to crown it all—in the words of coach Shankar Banerjee—"Subrata Bhattacharya was down to play today. He is coming out regularly and punctually for practice, but what is the use of practising if one does not bother to come out for matches? I do not know why Subrata did not turn up. He should have at least informed us." Anyway, that was that.

Mohun Bagan, with the exception of Shyam Thapa and Gautam Sarkar, who played at half pace, played with a very inexperienced team. "It is all right if we have one or two young players and weak links, as the more experienced players can cover up. But today the stalwarts were the exception rather than the rule," a forlorn Shankar Banerjee said after the match.

It would be a futile exercise to point out the highlights of the Mohun Bagan effort in this match. With the exception of Shyam Thapa in the forward line, there was very little for the 30,000 spectators who

braved an unbearably hot Calcutta afternoon to shout for. The tall Amit Bagchi reminds one so much of Elvis Presley with his neat hair style and snazzy walk, but forgets—with all respects to the King of Rock—that he is here to play football and not parade in a fashion show. Amitava Mukherjee hung on to the ball for too long and Krishanu Dey could not find his rhythm. It was a sad state of affairs.

For the most part of the first half it was a story of poor shooting. In the opening minutes Samir Sengupta the Wari left-extreme had a good chance, as did Amit Bagchi and Amitava Mukherjee of Mohun Bagan. All their attempts were wide off the mark and one cannot help but repeat that the bane of Indian football is poor striking power.

Amitava Mukherjee who was used as a winger in the first half played in his usual role as a striker in the second, but without any improvement. Midway into the second half Sanatan Choudhury, the Wari link-man, had only the goalkeeper to beat but his feeble kick was saved by Dilip Paul diving to his left. "I admit it was the easiest chance of the match," Sanatan said, "but what happened was that I received the ball on my thigh and failed to control it."

The only noteworthy Mohun Bagan move was initiated down the left flank in the 17th minute of the second half. A Krishanu Dey pass found Amit Bagchi, who centred to Amitava. The latter took a shot but the Wari goalkeeper brought off an excellent save and the writing was on the wall for Mohun Bagan.

Referee Milan Dutta made a glaring mistake on this day, although the linesman was also to blame. Sujas Bera replaced Krishanu Dey 10 minutes before full time without the referee noting down the change and

it was only after a few minutes that the error was rectified.

While the young Wari players rejoiced over their achievement, frustrated Mohun Bagan supporters could not accept the fact that their favourite team had secured only 24 points in 14 matches and missiles accompanied the players on their way back to the tent.

With stones flying around this reporter somehow managed to have a word with the Wari coach Amal Chakraborty. "I have a very young team under me and the draw will surely boost their morale. However, it is difficult to stay clear of the politics of the Calcutta League. Most matches among the smaller clubs are 'fixed' and the whole thing is a farce," said the Wari coach. "Regards today's game, well, we played the 4-3-3 combination, a system I've been following for all our matches. Moreover, Sanatan Choudhury was used to bottle up Shyam Thapa, as we know he was the danger man," Chakraborty added.

The Mohun Bagan tent after the match was a gloomy sight. Shyam Thapa brooded after the match saying, "Well, all has been lost and do not be surprised if you see us playing our whole second string in the matches to follow. Our confidence is shattered and we are going to have even more problems against George Telegraphs and Aryans."

To avoid their furious supporters many a Mohun Bagan player had to leave the tent through the 'back door' and one would not be surprised if they have to do this on a few more occasions this season.

EAST BENGAL: The confidence the home team derived from the victory over Mohun Bagan in their previous league engagement swept away all obstacles from their way in achiev-

ing yet another facile win when they met Barisha Sporting. East Bengal went on the offensive right from the beginning and maintained the momentum throughout the match leaving little scope for their rivals to make inroads into their territory, despite the absence of their key halfliener and skipper Amaliaj

However, Deepak Banerjee, who was fielded in Amal's place could not do justice to his selection and had to be withdrawn before long. Swapan Routh was brought in to help man the half line.

After making a few abortive moves, East Bengal made the breakthrough in the 12th minute of play. The goal was a result of an excellent combination between East Bengal's right full-back Bidyut Kundu and the scorer Tapan Das. The former darterd into Barisha territory after dribbling past a few defenders and then essayed a centre which Tapan made no mistake to nod home. Though there was not much power behind the header, the Barisha custodian made little effort to block it.

It was Bidyut Kundu again who proved instrumental in bringing about the second goal which was scored by Arup Das. It was once again the tumbling on the part of the Barisha custodian which paved the way for the goal. When Bidyut floated the ball into the goalmouth, Kartick nicely headed the ball towards the goal. The goalie tried to grab the ball, but it slipped out off his hands, and Arup Das was there to cash in on the opportunity.

Among the forwards Kartick Sett was the most eye-catching, as usual. Putting up a good display of his skills, anticipation and positioning judgement, Kartick proved a constant source of danger for the Barisha defenders. And it was he who scored the third goal off a clever pass from Balaj Mukherjee.

East Bengal maintained their winning spree when they took on Salkia Friends in their next league engagement. But this time the victory was not as easy as the previous one. The Salkia boys, known for their resilience, sought to offer their superior rivals a stiff challenge and succeeded to some extent in the first half.

Not only that, the East Bengal defence also showed some signs of weakness in the first half with little understanding between the halfliners and the defenders. As a result, the Barisha forwards made quick inroads into their territory on a number of occasions, creating quite a few dangerous moments which the East Bengal defenders had a hard time to neutralise.

The main reason for these defence lapses was undoubtedly the absence of Chinnoy Chatterjee who was nursing a thigh injury. Moreover, Balaj Mukherjee was often trying to

move upfield to help the halfliners as well as the forwards to create openings in front of the Barisha goalmouth. This added to the problems of the other defenders who were often seen caught on the wrong foot, somewhat surprised by the well-concerted moves by the Salkia attackers. In fact, in the first half they showed better ball control than that of their opponents and played really enthusiastic football.

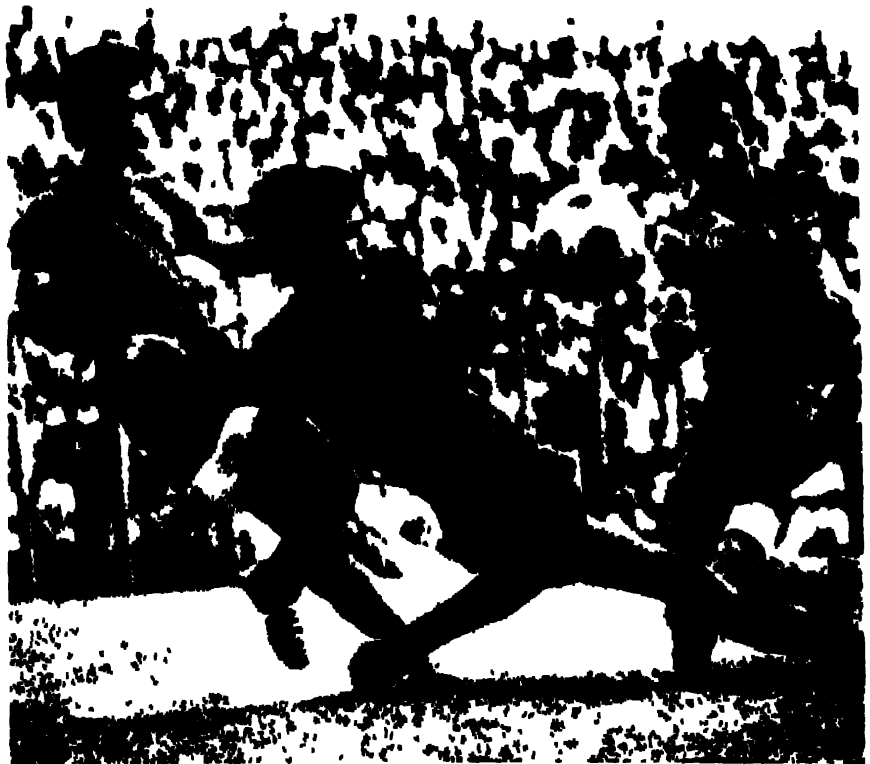
However, the other defender Pulak Biswas rose to the occasion commendably, taking it upon himself to make up for the absence of his experienced partner.

Another reason for their disorganised showing in the first half was that they were not very serious in their attitude towards the match, perhaps the result of their success in overcoming the stiffest hurdle in the running for the league title. Said the football secretary of the club, Prasanta Ghosh, after the match, "The players are still in a relaxed mood after the hard earned victory over our arch-rival Mohur Bagan. That day we fought gallantly and clinched the issue for the current league

got the goal scored by Mihir with a spectacular shot." Thereafter, East Bengal never allowed the initiative to slip out of their hands.

East Bengal started the second half with a few changes in the team, with Shekhar Chakraborty coming in place of Swapan Routh, and got the second goal in the 34th minute of the second half through Kartick Sett.

Now, the peculiarity about Salkia's performance was that, despite their aggressive play in the first half, they mysteriously recoiled into their shell in the second session, making little effort to penetrate their rival danger zone. When asked about it, the Salkia coach, Jahar Das, explained, "The stamina of my boys is limited, and they are much junior to their big club opponents. But in a bid to give their rivals an early surprise, they went out of their way and toiled extraordinarily hard in the first 30 minutes of the game. Naturally, they ran out of steam soon afterwards. Moreover, they tended to keep the ball to themselves for too long, which put additional pressure on their energy, and allowed the East Bengal



Salkia defender intercepts Mihir Boso

Naturally, this has induced a lethargic attitude in them which, however, they will not take long to overcome. But, strangely, at the same time there is a streak of anxiety in their minds, lest anything undesirable happens and the club suffers a setback at the concluding stages of the championship. That was why, as you must have noticed, they suddenly went all out to get the breakthrough towards the end of the first half and

players to take possession on the other. You must have noticed, Shakti Mitra was always trying to penetrate into rival territory all by himself, without releasing the ball in time for his colleagues to carry it deep into the East Bengal defence zone."

Pics NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

For bachelor s only

SOCCKER is a masculine game, no doubt, a game of brute force—legs, legs, legs, running, jumping, kicking, solid human mountains of muscle marauding up and down the field. And the fans? Perhaps the craziest followers of any sport, who storm the stands and the streets—whooping, hollering, parading, fighting like a devastating whirlwind. The women's libbers may put forward a lot of arguments and even persuade the entire female population of the world to invade all the football grounds on earth, but the fact will remain that it's an all-male affair—an expression of masculine robustness—that brooks no element that is feminine.

Let us now move to the East Bengal ground where, a few days ago, the home team played a league match against an inferior rival team Sal-kia Friends. There were still ten minutes to go before the start of the match. The fans of the big club, in a jubilant mood after the victory in the battle royal against Mohun Bagan only a few days previously were hunting for comfortable seats, exchanging greetings with the other groundbirds, those old familiar faces of the members' enclosures. Suddenly something happened. A ripple of excitement passed through the crowd, with everybody looking and pointing at the stand entrance and whispering to one another.

Only a couple, ostensibly newly wed, coming up the stairs in search of two good seats for themselves and also some for their friends who were following close behind. The higher they went up, the louder became the laughter, some people even went to the extent of pointing at them and kept passing various remarks some of which were really ear-burning. And it was only too apparent that the target was

Maidan musings



nobody else but the 'bride' clad in a red saree with sindur on her bright forehead.

The game started and the farce stopped for a while, but it was to resume with a vengeance after the final whistle was blown. None of the young connoisseurs of football, while filing past the embarrassed couple on their way out of the ground, forgot to hurl a comment at them. "Oh Dada, when did it all happen?" Somebody inquired, while another said, "How could you forget to invite us to your marriage party, Brother?" But as the comments became increasingly personal, one could not help but feel sorry for the young couple who will surely never watch another soccer match on the Maidan.

The mock wars

ONE peculiar and unhealthy aspect of the Calcutta league is that it is always expected to be a one-sided affair with the unfancied teams tamely giving themselves up to their so-called superior rivals in each and every engagement of the tournament. In fact, it's no longer merely an expectation; it is becoming a fact. Stiff

resistance from one such junior team inevitably causes annoyance in the stands, not to speak of an aggressive game which is bound to be an obvious irritant.

In other words, this is becoming more and more like a wish-fulfilling make-believe movie of the Bombay brand. The heroes face difficulties of various kinds, hurdles will be strewn in their paths, but none of them will be real ones. They must be eliminated at the appropriate moments before the glamour-boys run out of steam. Thereafter, it's an easy path all the way to the ultimate goal—a happy ending.

But things do not follow that same formula all the time. Once in a while some people turn back in rebellion to prick the balloon of superiority of their more celebrated rivals.

But thus far and no further. Their rebellion is nipped in the bud by their own generals. Surrender, they shout from the sidelines, give up the fort, they instruct their sentinels in the last line of defence. And then the 'superiors' ransack the deserted castle and blow their trumpets to signify that they have won the battle hands down.

Viva victors. All is fair in love and war. Especially mock wars.

The armed spectators

SELDOM, if ever, one has seen policemen, armed with lathis and shields sitting in the stands in a row during football matches in the Calcutta Maidan. Supporters have quarrelled, stones have been thrown, players have been heckled and so many other kinds of violent incidents have taken place, even at times causing heavy casualties. But those happenings are few and far between, taking place only when things deteriorate to very explosive stages due either to mismanagement on the part of the organisers or other reasons like wrong or biased decisions by the conductors of the matches. Big teams have played crucial league or shield matches, excitement has rose to fever pitch and yet things have passed off peacefully on most occasions, unless something really exasperating or provoking has occurred to spark off trouble among the football followers of the city. In fact, this has been the general atmosphere over the years.

Yet, for all this, never has there been the need to post police personnel in the galleries. So far they used to keep watch on the crowds from the ground and from around the entrances and exits.

The worst situations are witnessed during the big matches which are generally staged at the Eden Gardens, with fans of the rival clubs, sitting in two separate stands on either side of the clubhouse, exchanging missiles and gesticulating threateningly. At some stages the above-average enthusiasts even try to cross over the fences in a bid to start direct action, and the police have a harrowing time to dissuade them from their belligerency. Therefore, the move to quell troubles in the bud

Bula bubbles in glory

K. R. WADHWANEY

IF the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) had instituted an award for an outstanding display in the National Age Group Aquatics Championships, West Bengal's 13 year old Bula Chowdhury would be the worthy recipient. What she lacked by way of height and strength was balanced by her fine technique, determination and temperament. She gave ample evidence of her swimming prowess as she broke records every time she plunged into Kanpur's 117 pool where record books were altered with monotonous regularity between June 23-28.

Thin and pint sized Bula is as proficient in the crowd as she is in the back and butterfly strokes. While she has a forceful arm pull in the freestyle and back stroke she is also destined to make her presence felt in the quelling butterfly events with her powerful Dolphin kick.

All the favourites and star swimmers were able to turn in record breaking performances. However, Maharashtra's Anita Sood, who will be 17 in August, looked disappointed.



Bula Chowdhury, star of the meet

did not rattle for not improving upon her records for lack of practice and because of the unfortunate ankle injury that she sustained at Gandhinagar three months ago.

Anita, however, reigned supreme in the freestyle events for senior girls. But she failed to break the one minute barrier in the 100 metres freestyle. This was because she had an injured ankle, and as a result could not use the kick to the fullest advantage. Nevertheless, Anita is

optimistic that she will recover her best form in the near future. Accompanied by her mother Anita will undergo another round of training at Patiala's NIS.

Anita Sood's team-mate Geeta Anand broke the three minute barrier in the 200 metres for women returning a time of 2:57.9. This is 17.2 seconds better than the record held by Madula Shastri. This is not all. The timing was also an improvement on the Indian national record.

Geeta, like Anita, comes from an affluent family. Moreover she gets all the encouragement from her pa-



Geeta Anand

Troubled waters

THE Swimming Federation of India (SFI), nick-named the "Sleeping Federation of India", has chosen a new set of office-bearers. P. C. Jain, of Post and Telegraphs, has taken over as president from Patiala's Harika, who is ageing. Dilip Mitra, of National Swimming Association (Calcutta), has achieved his life's ambition of taking over, as secretary from P. Ram Dev (Karnataka) who, during his tenure, was not as active as he should have been.

Mitra, a fine swimmer and water polo player, about three decades ago, is dedicated to aquatics. He knows the rules and regulations of the sport thoroughly. The renaissance in aquatics can begin provided Mitra is able to see beyond the National Swimming Association and Bengal. If he is unable to do so, as was the case with Pannalal Ahir some two decades ago, the affairs of the SFI may deteriorate. Similarly, Jain is known to possess organisational ability. One hopes Jain realises that serving sport is much more important than dabbling in politics of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

The SFI does not have even a shoe-string budget. It lives from hand to mouth and depends largely on Government grants. That is the most unfortunate part of the SFI officialdom which unfortunately has held self interest as more important than the cause of aquatics.

There is plenty of talent in this country. However it should be groomed with utmost care and dedication. There are at least a dozen below 14 years old swim-

mers, boys and girls, who have a lot of potential. If they are trained properly, and provided adequate food and facilities, they will be able to bring laurels to the country in the 1986 Seoul Asian Games, if not in New Delhi in November this year.

The selection committee will shortly be reconstituted. While Ram Dev has been nominated chairman and Vasant Nanavati as convener, the other five selectors will be nominated by the chairman in a few days. Hitherto, there have been charges by swimmers and water polo teams that names are finalised without watching trainees in action. The minimum that is expected from the Ram Dev's selection committee is to wipe off this ill feeling and mend their ways.

While ascertaining the correct age of participants continues to be a nightmare throughout the country as all agencies are ever willing to submit false and fabricated certificates, there is a school of thought who feel that, in addition to the age group, height should also be taken into account. According to them, those who are above 5 feet and six inches should constitute one group (boys and girls), while those who are under this stipulation will constitute another section. This grouping will provide girls in both the sections to swim along with boys and thereby improve upon their timings because of stiffer competition. The suggestion, as I can see it, is worth trying and at least swimmers will have more competition.

K.R.W.

Sood's sad story

MAHARASHTRA'S 16-year-old Anita Sood was on the threshold of breaking the one-minute barrier in the 100 metres freestyle for women in India when she fractured her ankle at the Gandhinagar Asian Games coaching camp about three months ago in circumstances which were sad, to say the least. This is not all—But Anita, India's most outstanding woman freestyle swimmer, did not get proper attention immediately. She later returned home to Bombay where an X-ray revealed a hairline fracture of her ankle which immobilised her for six weeks.

According to information collected from different sources available at Gandhinagar (I have not spoken to Anita or her parents on the subject), Anita had finished her warm-up and weight training work-out when the foreign coach, Berand Johnke (GDR) asked her to play basketball. Anita, who loves swimming, expressed her unwillingness to play as she was totally exhausted. But the coach, under the mistaken notion that she was defying his instructions, insisted that Anita complied with his "orders".

Anita duly obeyed. But within



Anita Sood

rents, and one hopes her full potential is realised. Persis Madan (Maharashtra), S. Nanavati (Maharashtra), Nitiha Alpaiwala (Maharashtra), Runa Das (NSA), Shana Shacoor (Karnataka) and T. Husainally (Maharashtra) were other competitors in the girls' groups who showed promise and potential. Unquestionably the girls showed greater improvement and better skill than the boys at these championships.

Bijay Jain, the 17-year-old freestyler from Maharashtra put up a very good show. Although some participants complained that he was over age, he has the strength and stamina to make a name for himself on the Indian swimming scene.

Abhijit Ghosh (Bengal), was a very impressive exponent of the butterfly stroke and broke records in the 100 and 200 metres butterfly events. Biswajit Ghosh (Bengal), Mohd. Kamal Haque (Tripura), R. Shirazi (Maharashtra), Jagdish Banik (Bengal) and G. Kapoor (Maharashtra) were other swimmers who made dents in records.

The IIT pool is ideal with the water crystal clear. Participants had no complaints about it. V. K. Pande, a victim of needless politics in the U.P.

Swimming Association worked untiringly to make the meet a success. The lodging for the participants and officials was more comfortable than that provided by many States in the past but the food was sub standard.

The proximity of the IIT, 16 kilometres from the Central Telegraph Office (CTO) made the smooth operation by media men hazardous. Had the organisers written to the Post and Telegraphs Department to instal temporary PCO at



Greta Anand

minutes she fell down and someone else heaped on her resulting in the injury to her ankle. She limped off the court. She was taken to the doctor, who was a general physician, and was treated for a sprain. In fact her ankle was even rubbed down. This aggravated her injury and, to her misfortune, a faulty X-ray examination in Gandhinagar revealed "no fracture".

The pain and swelling persisted. She opted to return to Bombay where another X-ray was taken and the fracture revealed.

Anita remained out of the water and other work-outs for six weeks. When she returned to swimming after the plaster was removed, Anita realised that her ankle could not withstand the strain. She consulted her doctors who advised her to "rest for another fortnight". But Anita was in no mood to miss the National Age Group Championships, which concluded at Kanpur on June 28.

Lack of practice and psychologically feeling her ankle injury, Anita failed to better any of her records. In fact, she returned very poor timings in most of the events. Disappointed but not disheartened, Anita is optimistic that she will soon regain her peak form. She is keyed up to be among the finalists in the forthcoming Asian. It seems possible. But much depends upon her ankle, work-outs, coaching programme and strategy.

the IIT, it would have solved many irritating problems and coverage would have been much wider and better.

The SII it must be mentioned, is guilty of not initiating effective measures to prevent over age boys and girls from participating in different groups and thereby causing dis-appointment to many swimmers. National Swimming Association's Runa Das—once disqualified in Bombay for concealing her age—was participating in group two while many thought that she should have taken part in group one. The Tamil Nadu manager lodged an official protest against her. But the officialdom, dominated by Mr. Dilip Mitra, who is the virtual owner of the NSA, did not even consider the protest. Many felt it was nothing short of high handedness.

Maharashtra claimed the overall championship with a tally of 593 points followed by Bengal with 480. The meet was robbed of a lot of talent as Kerala, bogged down by internal trouble between two factions, pulled out at the last minute. Had the Kerala team come there would surely have been more than the 25 records that were set during the six-day meet.

The guardians of the game meet

PARTAB RAMCHAND

THE crowd disturbances at Madras and Bangalore against "dubious" decisions by the umpires in the Ranji Trophy knockout ties early this year were a new phenomenon in Indian cricket. Never before had this happened at these centres, where the crowd is considered to be the most sporting and knowledgeable in the country. Moreover, the serious riots occurred in quick succession—in the quarter-final match between Tamil Nadu and Delhi in the last week of February and in the semi-final between Bombay and Karnataka in the second week of March.

It was obvious that the umpires sub-committee at its meeting at Madras over this weekend would deeply consider the situation from all angles. After serious deliberations for many hours, the committee came up with some interesting recommendations and I shall try to analyse each as we go on.

The committee expressed concern at the disturbances at the two venues, which boasted fair and sports-minded spectators. It underlined the need to safeguard against such unpleasant incidents. It asked the players to co-operate, noting with regret that the gestures of some of the players had led to these disturbances. These gestures were either throwing the ball or cap onto the ground when an appeal was rejected or a batsman's reluctance to leave the crease when he was given out. It noted that umpires are human and make mistakes and that the players should take every decision in the sporting spirit.

All this is easier said than done. Who is a 'walker' nowadays? Hardly anyone. Even Vishwanath doesn't these days. To help augment this statement, let me illustrate. In the Ranji match against Karnataka at Madras in December 1978, Tamil Nadu led off with a total of 244 while in reply Karnataka were 15 for three. Vishwanath was holding firm but shortly along came a ball from Venkataraghavan that Vishwanath gently nudged into Jabbar's hands at short leg. Vishwanath did not 'go' and to an appeal the umpire ruled not out. Vishwanath went on to make 88, saving the match for Karnataka. After the day's play, I heard it from

more than one player that Vishwanath admitted that he was out, but did not 'walk' as his team was in a precarious situation.

The second recommendation was in regard to police bandobust. It said that the association staging the match was responsible for arranging proper police protection for the players and umpires. Adequate police squads should be posted at various places on the ground. This should be particularly followed very strictly when it is likely to be a close match.

This is a very good observation since the organisers just do not seem to bother about security arrangements. Again, let me elucidate. Off the last ball of the second day in the Tamil Nadu-Delhi match, Srinivasan was given out caught at silly point. It was a decision that aroused controversy since a section of the crowd thought that the ball had made contact with the ground before being caught by the fielder. As the players came off, the crowd swarmed into the field and then into the pavilion and shouted slogans against the umpires and Mohinder, the Delhi captain. Venkataraghavan appealed to them to calm down and take the umpire's decision in the proper spirit. After about an hour, the crowd dispersed. All this time, there was hardly any police personnel worth the name at the ground. If there was, the crowd could not have made its way to the pavilion for the distance between the various stands and the pavilion is anything between 100 and 200 yards.

Fortunately nothing untoward happened but it was obvious that from now on the match would be played in a tense atmosphere. Sensing further trouble, Venkataraghavan told a couple of TNCA officials that they had better make proper security arrangements for the remaining two days of the match. Astonishingly when I went to the ground on the third morning, I hardly saw any police squad. There were the usual handful of cops. Now, this was sheer negligence on the part of the officials. This woeful lack of anticipation cost them dearly on the fourth day. One by one, the "doubtful" decisions tested the crowd's patience until they could stand it no more.

When Vasudevan was given out, caught at backward short leg, as the batsman was clearly padding up, all hell broke loose. It was only after the crowd invaded the field, after the umpires were manhandled, after chairs were thrown on to the field and benches wrenched apart, that the organisers woke up and rushed to call the police, when with a little hindsight all this need not have taken place at all. Of what avail is wisdom that dawns too late? The consequences have to be suffered and Chepauk suffered the fact that its hitherto spotless white reputation was sullied.

A third recommendation was in regard to the statements and opinions voiced by radio commentators. The Bangalore riots were attributed, in part at least, to the fact that one of the commentators, a well-known cricket correspondent for a leading English daily, emphasised on the point that Vishwanath was a 'walker'. It may be recalled that the disturbances at Bangalore were sparked off when Vishwanath was given out caught. He hesitated, then departed unwillingly for the pavilion. The crowd saw their captain's reluctance and remembering his reputation, were naturally upset. The committee noted that the concerned commentator added "fuel to the fire" and "infuriated" the crowd by noting that Vishwanath was a 'walker', implying that there was an element of doubt to his dismissal.

This is a very interesting observation, one that brings to mind a bigger riot at a Test match, which was also attributed in part to a commentator's "rash opinion". Remember the Bombay Test against Australia in November 1969?

India were fighting hard to stave off defeat on the fourth evening and at this stage, Venkataraghavan was given out caught by Taber off Connolly. Venkataraghavan, another with a reputation as a 'walker', hesitated and the crowd sensed something wrong about the decision. Over their wireless sets, they then heard Devraj Puri telling the listeners that in his view, the bat had been nowhere the ball. That probably did incense the crowd further.

Rioting then followed in the blackest chapter of Brabourne Stadium's history, with chairs and bottles thrown about and fires being lit in various stands. At that time there were two schools of thought regarding Puri's comment. His colleagues contended that the spectators were in uproar even before his comment on the umpire's decision (could the same be said on the Bangalore incident?)

People who disagreed with Puri said that he should not have given an opinion from more than 100 yards away since the "umpire was always the best judge". This led to a writer remarking that "if the intention is to

keep out all controversial remarks, a code of mute conduct for objective coverage can be evolved and broad casters groomed—in which case the words 'commentary' and 'commentator' should go out and 'broadcast' and 'broadcaster' be substituted."

Another commentator said that he heard a roar of protest when Venkatiahavan was given out and "To say that his remark upset the public is to believe that spectators were otherwise blind to the occurrence." Fellow commentators in Puri's defence insisted that it was a broadcaster's duty to inform the radio audience of the facts as he heard and saw them.

The committee was satisfied with the response from the captains who sent in reports on the umpires. About 75 per cent of the captains sent in their reports. These reports are important for if five captains give an adverse report on any umpire, that official will not be eligible to stand in further first class matches. The umpires are also eligible to send in reports on the conduct of the match, the players, the captains and the organisers, but the response here is not very encouraging. Is this also indicative of the umpires' lack of confidence in the Board?

The committee also did make a note of Gavaskar's left-right-left batting in the match against Karnataka. It was of the view that while there is nothing in the rules against such batting it was an unwarranted display, not in keeping with the Indian captain's stature. It was painful that Gavaskar should resort to such gimmicks when he should be setting an example to the youth of this country.

The committee's recommendations will now go before the Working Committee, which will ratify it. But before they do so, the Board could also pay more attention to improving the technical equipment of umpires under conditions which impose an increasing strain on the observation and judgement of umpires. More reliable methods that are followed today should be devised to test physical fitness, eyesight, sense of hearing and stamina—no less than the mental attitude required for sound umpiring. The necessity to concentrate on the essential aspects of the work and to extract what is integral to the decision from extraneous or subjective factors such as the vehemence of the appeal or the attitude of the crowd must be particularly emphasised. On their part the players would be well advised in the fair name of the game, not to bully or pressurise the umpire into giving the wrong decisions. Indian crowds, by and large, are disciplined, but still proper police handobust is necessary to combat the "hot heads" in the audience. Regarding commentators one can't be dogmatic, but only advise them to refrain from making any remark that could cause trouble.

Board to wield the cane

TO its innumerable committees, the Board of Control for Cricket in India is very soon likely to have a Disciplinary Committee. But whereas the cynics may scoff at the functioning of many of its committees—or even wonder whether it was necessary to form some of the committees in the first place—there is no denying the fact that it is about time that a disciplinary committee be formed.

Actually, this move has been on the cards for some time, but what has made the Board possibly resolve to finally act was the alarming tendency among players to misbehave on the field of play. This misbehaviour ranged from obscene gestures at the umpires to dissatisfaction against an umpire's decision, incessant talking with the batsmen, showering abusive language at one another and so on.

The discipline of the players has been in doubt for some years now but was really "hit for six" in last year's domestic tournaments. As a witness to some of the Ranji Trophy matches played, I can readily testify that all is not well with the players once they get on the field of play. They may be the best of friends before they step on to the field and after the day's play they might even possibly share a drink at the bar. But with cricket having ceased to be a game—at least in the minds of some players—the animal instinct in every human being surfaces once the intensity of the contest becomes "hot". The players now want to win at any cost, by treachery, by fair means or foul, by malpractice or by openly flouting the rules. All they want is to win, win, win!

Just last month we had the umpire pulling up Edmonds in the Lord's Test against India for "having words" or "incessantly talking" to Venkatarao. This naturally disturbs the concentration of batsmen and the umpires were right within the spirit of the game in pulling up Edmonds who was fielding at short leg. I was happy with the umpire's action but was not entirely shocked by Edmonds' behaviour. For I had seen enough of it in domestic matches. The Tamil Nadu-Delhi Ranji Trophy quarter final was a classic case of misbehaviour by the players. In fact, it was so bad that it was one of the two major factors that led to crowd invasions, on the second and the fourth day. The other was of course being dubious decisions by umpires. When the amiable and sports loving crowd of Madras is guilty of something they have never done before one can be sure that they have been tested beyond limits.

I can readily testify that this was so. Even from the Press Box one could see that all was not right on the field of play. There seemed to be some unpleasant exchanges between the batsmen and the close fielders. But after talking with some of the players involved, I was shocked to hear the kind of language spoken. All kinds of words—vulgar, four letter ones—were freely exchanged. Even when provoked such language is unpardonable. But on occasions there was no cause for provocation and yet bad language was used, simply as a means to pressurise the batsmen into getting out. Batsmen given out to doubtful decisions were told in the most abusive language to get out when they seemed reluctant to leave the crease. Even batsmen who were on the way to the pavilion after being dismissed, were abused. Then the fielders in virtually every close-in position, seemed to indulge in a continuous chatter before every ball was bowled—and at times even when the ball was actually being bowled!

I gather that the same thing happened in Bangalore during the Karnataka-Bombay semi-final. In fact, some players have told me that this is very much prevalent in almost every match. The way they talk about it, one would think of it as some sort of fad.

Well, if it is the "in" thing it soon better be "out". And that is why the Board is likely to form the Disciplinary Committee at its Working Committee meeting in Pune in August. It will be interesting to see what action the new committee will take to solve this alarming problem.

Moreover, such behaviour should also be condemned for the devastating effect it has on the crowd. For example, two Delhi players continued in making unseemly gestures towards the crowd for no apparent reason and this added fuel to the fire. The spectators, already incensed by the fact that, in their view, the home batsmen were getting a raw deal via dubious umpiring decisions, could stand it no longer. While they ostensibly invaded the field, threw chairs and wrenched benches in an angry gesture against the umpires, they had also been angered by this "needling" by the two Delhi players. In fact, after they crossed over the pavilion they not only shouted slogans against the umpires but also called out to the two Delhi players—both of them Indian stars—to come out and face them if they dared. So looking at it from any angle, the bad behaviour by the players is hardly one to be condoned. If anything, the Disciplinary Committee, when formed, should devise ways and means to combat this growing menace in a firm way other than see the noble game sullied. Otherwise, the law and order problem at cricket grounds may become acute and uncontrollable.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

First it was Fingleton, now Ray Robinson

THE last of Australia's great cricket writers, Raymond John Robinson, died on 6 July, 1982, just a couple of days short of what would have been his 77th birthday in Sydney. With his going a fort fell and Australian cricket writing closed its Great Book.

Ray Robinson had been involved deeply with reporting at the highest level of the game for more than four decades, his first overseas tour being with the Australians in 1934 when Bradman and Pontford were flexing their muscles to take charge and Woodfull was pointing the sabre from the front. That began a tryst with the game that was to last into well over 140 Tests and which brought across his way the most number of overseas tours made by any cricketing scribe from his country.

His ability to scan through the scenes of battle and transfer the visual impressions into print with the faintest trace of bias made him a very popular writer—in fact, the most renowned and widely read Australian in that sport—and he picked his ability to convey with a rare blend of anecdotal comments and wit.

Ray Robinson, a Tasmanian by birth, was primarily connected, as

far as cricket reporting went, with the Fairfax Group, writing for *Sun* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* while retaining simultaneously the distinction of being the Australian correspondent of *The Cricketer* for three decades and a half, the cricket correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* for more than three and a prolific writer for *The Times*, *The Observer*, *The Cricketer* (Australia) and *The World of Cricket* (India). At one stage his goodwill as a writer so burst its seams that his daily write-ups on Test matches used to appear simultaneously in 20 major cities of the Commonwealth.

Robinson's ability to sift through a heap of details and emerge with the substance was indeed remarkable. And what in the end lent credibility to his stature as a confirmed critic of the loftiest pedigree was his ability of retaining a certain vividness of description while writing for his paper, that of another city, another country and for even mastheads across the continents—all that very evening! And he was one of the few writers who could view the game's past and its lot of characters without looking through the glasses of prejudice. Just a couple of years ago, he declared that he considered Gordon Greenidge to be the hardest hitter since the War. Typical of him, other

writers without entirely disagreeing over the choice would have added a pinch of moderation in language and brought it down to 'one of the' Not so for Robinson.

But it shall be as a cricket author that posterity shall profile the man. He brought to it a new style, so to say alloying the virtues of meticulous research and readability to a hard and to such an extent that you sometimes wondered whether he himself had not been on the field, now shuttling from first slip to third, reading the bowler's mind from mid-off, standing between the captain and his deputy as they discussed the strategies of battle, in incognito, of course.

His effort with which he broke ground was *Between Wickets*, published in 1946 and which still remains a bedside book. It always will. Robertson Glasgow was of the opinion that it was "A book to be read, every line of it and not to be lent without an IOU." But the main pat on the back was to come from Cardus himself. His "The best book on cricket written by an Australian so far" pinned the decoration on a deserving breast.

He followed that with *From the Boundary* (1951), *Green Spigs* (1954), *The Glad Season* (1955), *The Wildest Tests* (1972-79) and *On Top Down Under* in 1976. It was his final work that won him universal cricketing acclaim. His research to effectively portray each of the 35 captains of Australia since 1877 was compendious and for that he was adequately rewarded by being asked to fly to England and receive a cheque from the Cricket Society Jubilee Literary Award for 1977. John Arlott, the president of the English Cricket Writers' Association, made another presentation to him and when Don Moyes asked him to sign his copy of the book there, the request was slipped in to write in addition "Not really a sex manual."

Nearly every book of his topped the 100,000 mark on the sales chart and such was the command of his over the technique that one passage of his was translated into a French book for research by language students. Quite a few of his books made a beeline for subsequent editions and not a few of his essays found their way into anthologies.

The last few years took a toll of his eyesight and he stopped going abroad for some time before his death. But on home grounds he could still be found, zest and an appetite for hard work undiminished, a pair of binoculars slung across his neck and pounding away at his machine. When Ray Robinson died on the first Tuesday of July, this year, a friend found an incomplete copy of the obituary of Ken 'Slasher' Mackay fixed in his typewriter. Now it is his turn.

MUDAR PATHERYA



Ray Robinson—a familiar sight and a hard worker

Of signals and appeals

1) Signalling is very important in umpiring. It is imperative that the persons wearing white coats should know the code of signalling. An umpire must also demand that every signal is promptly acknowledged by the official scorer. Whatever the urgency, the umpire must not allow the game to resume until and unless the last signal has been acknowledged.

There is a mistaken notion among players and some umpires that double appeal is not permissible. A second appeal is justified when the first appeal fails and the fielding side consider that another appeal to the same or other umpire might be sustained. An umpire must, therefore, remain totally involved with the game all the time so that he is not caught unaware if

the second appeal is made.

B. P. King of Lancashire was batting against Surrey's Stan Squires and the ball went through his pads. Squires appealed for LBW, but the late Frank Chester negated it because King had soberly played the ball. The ball was, however, caught in the slip by Eddie Watts, who appealed for a catch. Chester

praised his finger almost as soon as he had given not out for the same incident.

1) Chester was involved in yet another incident of similar nature. Don Bradman (51) was at his usual best against England in 1938 when he attempted a forward defensive shot against Reg Sinfeld. The ball was

gathered by Leslie Ames, who was standing right over the stumps. He whipped off the bails and appealed to Emmett Robinson, who, at square-leg, negated the stumping appeal. Ames then appealed to Chester, who, at the bowler's end, declared Bradman caught at the wicket. It was a classic decision. Later, Bradman complimented Chester and told him that it was one of the best decisions in his cricket career. Bradman, in his book *Farewell to Cricket*, wrote how great an umpire Chester was. Here are some problems.

Q: The sight screens are pitched within the playing area. A

hit from the batsman lands direct on one of the screens and the fielders standing underneath holds the ball before it touches the ground. An appeal for 'caught' is made. (1) Can the appeal be sustained and (2) can a 'six' be awarded?

A: (1) No, the batsman is not out as, according to the law, the sight-screens within the playing area are regarded as 'boundary'.

Q: A no-ball is bowled. The striker moves out to play it but is only able to edge it. As the ball trickles, the wicket-keeper steps in front of the wicket, gathers the ball and breaks the wicket with the striker out of the crease. Is he out, if so how?

A: The striker is not out as he cannot be stumped off a no-ball. He cannot be run out either as he was not attempting any run.



(2) Six runs will be awarded, provided the ball is struck directly over a sight-screen so situated. If the ball hits the sight screen fullpitch, only four runs will be awarded.

Q: The striker plays the ball a few yards in front of him and attempts a run. Finding a fielder rushing in to pick up the ball, he returns and accidentally kicks the ball on to his own stumps. The bails fall down while the striker is out of his crease. Is the batsman out, if so how?

A: The batsman is not out as the ball was not intercepted by any fielder as laid down in the Law.

Q: The striker goes out to play a ball, but misses it. The ball hits his pads and is rolling back when the wicket-keeper gathers it and breaks the wicket with the striker still out of the crease. Is the striker out, if so how?

A: The striker is stumped.

Q: A batsman at the wicket is indisposed and wishes to retire. Is the consent of the fielding captain necessary?

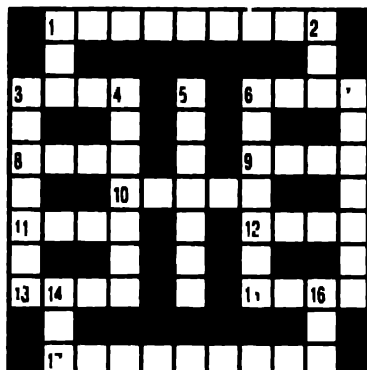
A: There is no need for the batsman to obtain the fielding captain's consent for retiring. But it is imperative to obtain the consent of the rival captain before he resumes his innings.



Crossword

MUDAH

157



ACROSS

- 1 Spanish tennis player, who ends in ages (1, 8)
- 3 A big shot in the Asian Games Organising Committee is unwell in the end (4)
- 6 A type of tennis court (4)
8 An Indian batsman of yore with an appropriate beginning, returns (4)
Perhaps the greatest wrestler of all time who came from what is now, Pakistan (4)
- 10 What Miss Jacobs and Miss Wills moody of the tennis world had in common (5)
Conpton, the cricketer initially (1 1 1 1)
- 12 A direction for a Bridge term (4)
- 13 To shut hard for a great tennis achievement (4)
- 15 What Placid is besides belonging to the dictionary only (4)
- 17 An international game of Indian orig" (9)

DOWN

- 1 An Indian cricketer of old (3)
- 2 What Sobers, Frank Worrell, Bradman and Hutton have in common (3)
- 3 Sri Lankan born batsman who is now eligible to play for England (1 6)
- 4 Brearley's middle name, returns (7)
- 5 A finalist in two successive football World Cups and unsuccessful in both (7)
- 6 Alistair of English cricket who plays professional rugby too (7)
- 7 Perhaps, the best of cricket's present after-dinner speakers (1, 6)
- 14 A tennis shot (3)
- 16 First name of a tennis master who won everything except Wimbledon (3)

Excellent 20—18, Good 17—15 Fair 14—13.

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Arora

Anil Sowant, Bombay

Q What are the dates of birth of Sunil Gavaskar and Don Bradman?
Sunil Gavaskar was born on 10 July, 1949 while Bradman was born on 27 August 1908

A B Barnabas, Calcutta

Q. What is the standard size of a cricket ball and a stump?

A The ball when new shall measure not less than 8 13 16 inches 22.4 cm nor be more than 9 inches 22.9 cm in circumference. The stumps shall be of equal and sufficient size to prevent the ball from passing between them. Its top shall be 28 inches 71.1 cm above the ground and shall be dome-shaped except for the bail grooves

Q If a wicket-keeper gets injured in a match and is incapacitated from keeping wickets can a substitute keep the wickets?

A Only one among the regular members of the side can keep wickets

Rohit Jain, New Delhi

Q Where and when was Syed Kirmani born?

A 29 December 1951 at Madras J Isaac, Madras

Q How many Indian batsmen have made a century on their Test debuts?

A L Amarnath (231 223) P R Umrigar (223) S M Gavaskar (221 220 205) G R Vishwanath (222), D N Sardesai (212 200) M A K Pataudi (203) Kalyana Gogri, Duttajjan

Ashis Chandra Kourm Asansol

Q How many Indian batsmen have registered a double century in Tests? Please name them

A V Mankad (231 223) P R Umrigar (223) S M Gavaskar (221 220 205) G R Vishwanath (222), D N Sardesai (212 200) M A K Pataudi (203) Kalyana Gogri, Duttajjan

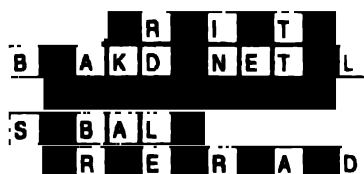
Q Can a pitch be changed during a match?

A No

Mohan Nair, Ahmedabad

Q What is the highest number of runs scored in an innings by Ajit Wadekar?
A 143 versus Zealand at Wellington in 1967-68

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 156



Barahamihir Mishra, Berhampur

Q What is Tony Greig's highest score in Tests?

A 148 against West Indies at Bridgetown in 1973/74

Satyadev R Pandey, Bombay

Q When did Ranjitsinhji make his Test debut?

A In the second Test against Australia at Manchester in 1896

Umesh Chandra Sahu, Sambalpur

Q Who scored the fastest century in Tests in how many minutes and against whom?

A J M Gregory of Australia has scored the fastest century in Tests—in 70 minutes in the second Test against South Africa at Johannesburg in 1921-22

Prabhat Chakraborty, New Delhi

Q How many wickets have Kapil Dev and Karsan Ghavri taken in Tests?

A Before embarking on the tour of England in 1982, Kapil Dev had bagged 147 wickets in 38 Tests. Ghavri has 109 wickets in 39 Tests to his credit

Q How many captains has India named including Sunny Gavaskar?

A India has named a total of 20 captains including Sunil Gavaskar in the 195 Tests played by it so far

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Identify the following sport personalities

- 1 Sun Jinfang
- 2 Ramaz Shengeliya
- 3 Erwin Vandenberg
- 4 Tibor Nyilas
- 5 Roger Milla
- 6 Gu Guangming
- 7 Maxime Bossis
- 8 Luis Miguel Arconada
- 9 Olga Bicherova
- 10 Waltraud Kretschmar

ANSWERS

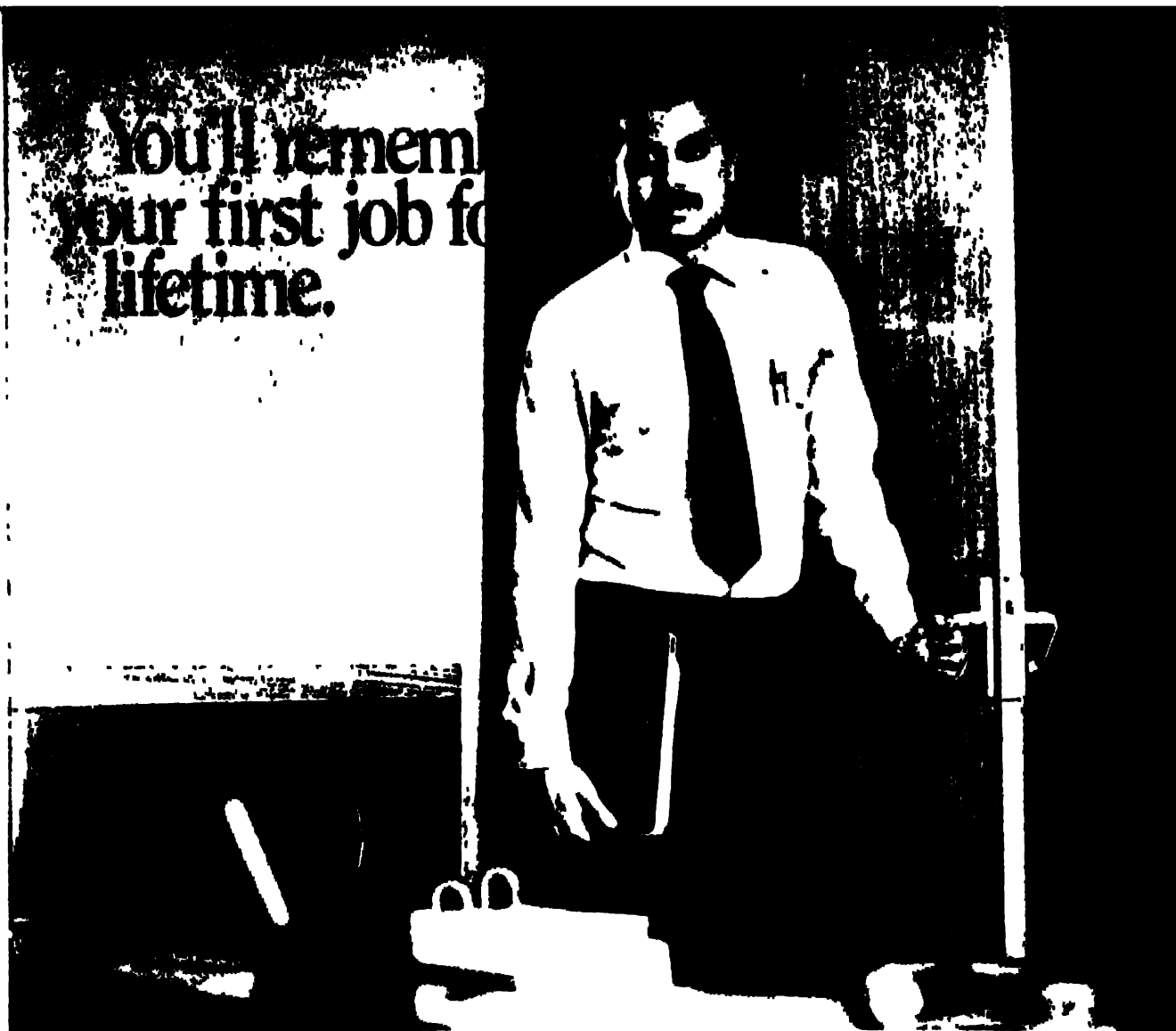
- 1 Chinese woman volleyballer who carried away three trophies in the 3rd World Cup (held at Japan from July 11 to 16, 1982) which was won by China
- 2 Football striker for USSR and Tibet
- 3 Member of Belgium's World Cup (1982) soccer squad
- 4 Member of Hungary's World Cup (1982) soccer squad (Defender)
- 5 Striker of Cameroon's World Cup (1982) soccer squad (Defender)
- 6 Striker of China's national football team
- 7 Member of France's World Cup (1982) soccer team
- 8 Goalkeeper of Spain's World Cup (1982) soccer team
- 9 Overall women's champion at the 1981 World Gymnastics Championships (Represented the USSR)
- 10 Captain of the GDR women's handball team for the past few years

A No

A No A hat-trick should be taken off three consecutive *fair* deliveries

A. Vishwanath

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SPORTSWORLD

MOHUN BAGAN

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Fight tooth decay
with Colgate
Dental Cream**



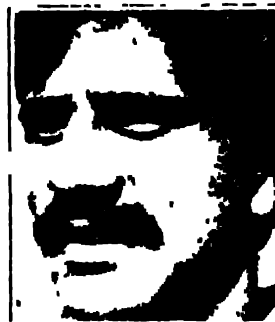
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The controversy gained much momentum after Shastri's showing in The Oval Test and every cricket fan is now humming the same question. Much of the mystery is attempted at by PARTAB RAMCHAND who feels that for the coming battles it should be Chohan or Srikkanth



20 CLIMAX TO CATASTROPHE
It began with the Federation Cup which Mohun Bagan won but the run was downhill. DEREK O'BRIEN takes a look at the club's success graph

27 RANJIT THAPA
One of the very good players of Indian football Ranjit Thapa comes under the spotlight again as HARESH MUNWANI profiles the man with usual depth



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Cover transparency of Shyam Thapa by Jayanta Sett

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Letters to the Editor

Goodbye Vishy

AFTER watching Gundappa Vishwanath as a batsman for over a decade I have come to the conclusion that he is an ordinary batsman, even though he has scored over 6,000 runs in Test cricket with 14 centuries to his credit. I find quite a few faults in his batting which I am putting down here

1) Vishwanath's defence is not very sound and he is especially weak against leg spinners. He is vulnerable against the rising balls and against ones that swing away.

2) He is not a good chooser of the balls and one can easily tempt him by bowling outside the off stump.

3) He never plays according to the situation. Though he has saved India many a time I feel that he is mostly responsible for India's batting debacle.

4) His stance is not perfect. He applies too much pressure on his bat and takes too much time to switch his bat from one position to another.

I cannot understand how with all these faults, people can call him a great batsman. In the recently-concluded series against England he played very badly though he scored two fifties. They were mainly due to luck and not the result of good batting. I hope that Ashok Malhotra takes his place in the coming series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Goodbye Vishy.

BADAL BHATTACHARJEE, Behala

Which one?

IN reply to a question by Mr J P Agarwal in the issue of 7 July, Sudhu Vaidya has mentioned that Dilip Sardesai holds the record for the fastest

Test century by an Indian. However, in a recent issue of a leading Hindi magazine of the country it was mentioned that the fastest 100 by an Indian was made by Lala Amarnath at Bombay in 1933-34. Could you take the trouble to clarify?

RAKESH KUMAR PODDAR, Dumka

(The fastest Test century by an Indian was made by Lala Amarnath and not Dilip Sardesai as mentioned—Editor)

Heartiest congratulations

PLEASE convey my heartiest congratulations to the Indian cricket team and especially to Sunil Gavaskar for losing the series against England in England, this summer.

M KRISHNA KUMAR, Secunderabad

Best-ever Indian team

MY team chosen, from the players who represented India, is as follows: S M Gavaskar (captain), Vijay Merchant, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, Vinoo Mankad, Polly Umrigar, Kapil Dev, S M H Kulkarni, Mohammed Nissar, E A S Prasanna and B S Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar. The only bowler from this group is that of Bedi but it must be explained that Mankad as a bowler was nearly as good as and, of course, a very good batsman who could lend stability to the middle order.

JAYANT SINHA, New Delhi

THIS is my best Indian team: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), S Venkataraghavan (vice captain), Ajit Wadekar, Vishwanath, Sunil Gavaskar, F M Engineer, Dilip Sardesai, M L Jaisimha, Kapil Dev, Prasanna and Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

BE NTAMIN, Bangalore

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MY Indian team is as follows: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Vinoo Mankad, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, Polly Umrigar, G R Vishwanath, Kapil Dev, F M Engineer, Mohammed Nissar, B S Bedi and Chandrashekhar. Twelfth man Vijay Meichant

N AJIT KUMAR,
Cochin

Great service

I FEEL that it would be a great service to the country's state of affairs if the editor of *Sportsworld*, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, went in for a career in political journalism. I think that his talents have been wasted in sports journalism and I am sure that we would benefit from his views on the national political scene. If I am not mistaken, Pataudi has also once contested the elections and, moreover, this was confirmed when I heard in an interview with him on the television that he was greatly interested in politics.

C JAYANTHI
Sindri

Excellent blow-ups

DURING the World Cup soccer tournament your issues of *Sportsworld* gave us excellent coloured blow-ups of ten individual soccer stars of the world and of the matches too. Apart from this *Sportsworld* carried out a detailed coverage of the matches and gave adequate publicity to the tournament before and after it began. I feel that this was done better than any other sports magazine of the country. I wish to express my thanks and congratulations to you and your magazine for this wonderful role.

SEBASTIAN JOHN ANTHONY,
Pune

Final say

Italy took on Poland in the first semi-finals of the World Cup. One wonders who Pope John Paul II was rooting for?

DEREK O'BRIEN
Calcutta

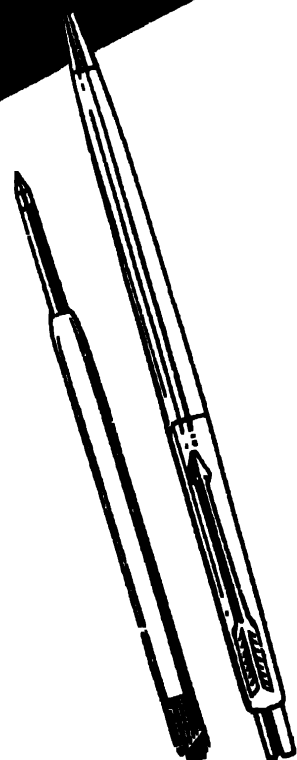
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The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

JOGGING DOESN'T SAVE THE BACON

Arizona If you've been running for your life, forget it. Here's why: Arizona's celebrated jogging pigs are now simply anonymous packets of bacon on supermarket shelves. Fifty-four porkers were used in a pig-jogging project at the State University to study the effect of diet/exercise on health. The pigs were divided into three groups and given different diets and levels of exercise. Before being slaughtered, their blood was analysed and it was found that while the joggers ate less and grew shapelier legs (!) only the pigs with low-fat diets had healthier blood though they had no exercise which for man means that a balanced diet is more essential than the best exercise to protect against heart disease.

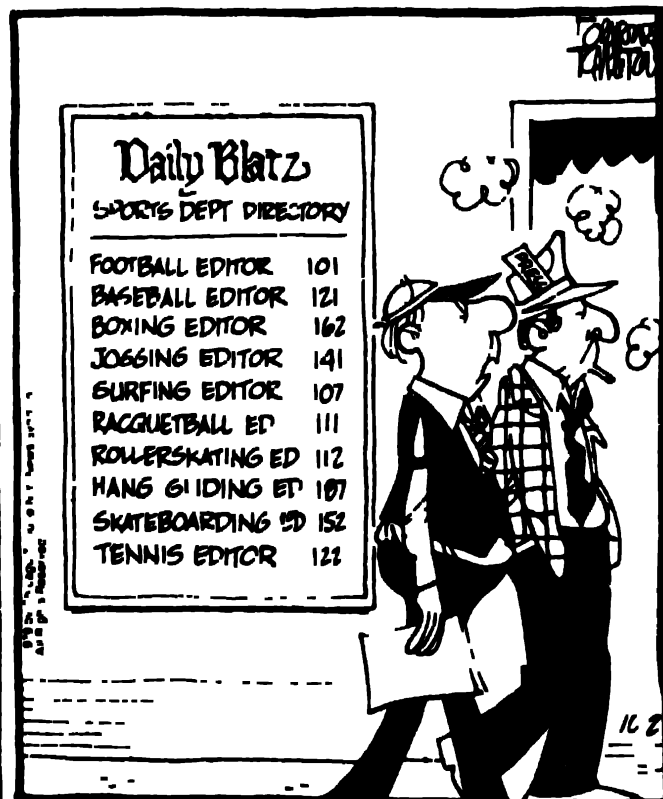
REAL FIGURES ARE MORE FUN

London Which international cricketer would rather score a century than score with Raquel Welch? You guessed it—Geoff Boycott—who declared in an LBC radio interview that given the choice between Raquel Welch and a hundred at Lord's he'd take the hundred everytime!

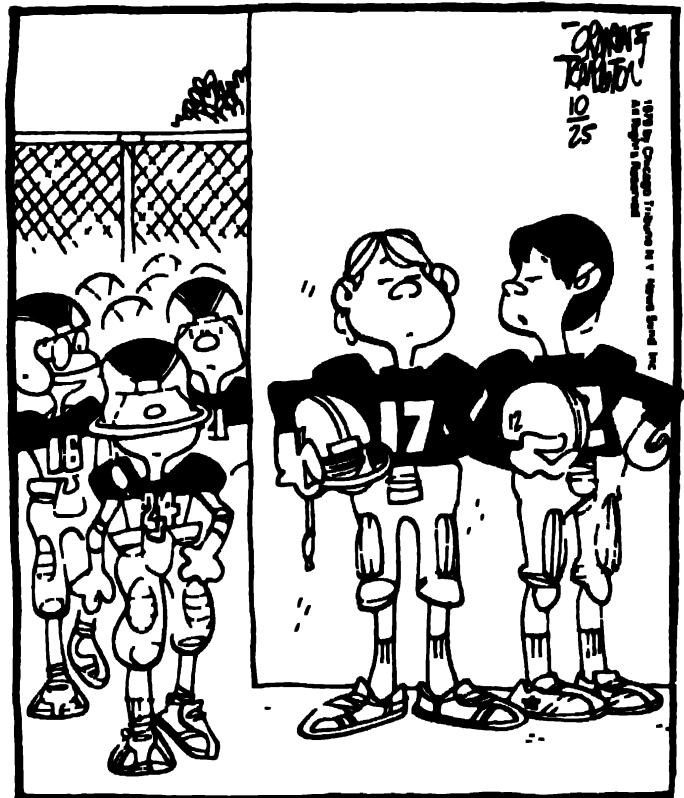
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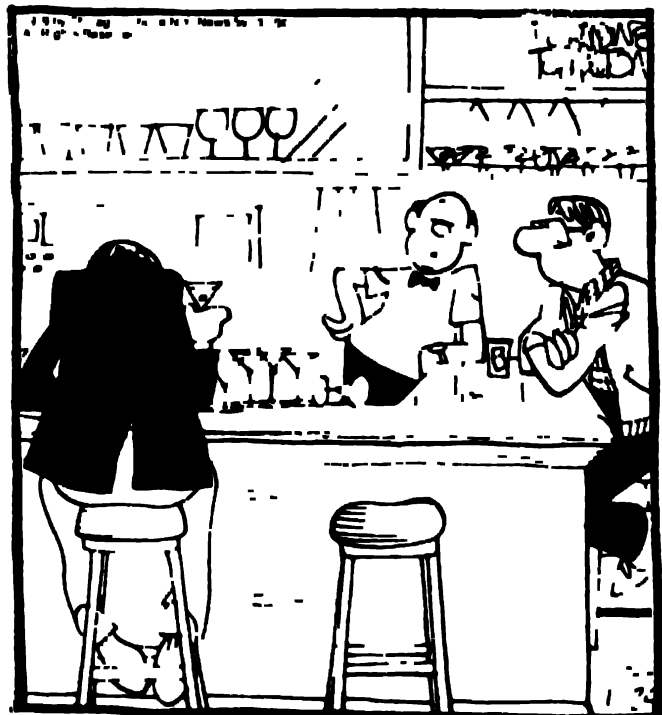
BERNIE TELLIS



"Y'KNOW, I'M STARTIN' TO GET THE FEELIN' THERE'S MORE OF THEM THAN US ..."



"THIS SHOULD BE AN EASY GAME IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'VE REACHED PUBERTY YET."



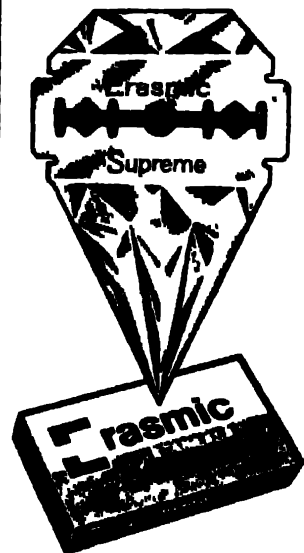
"HE'S JUST BEEN GIVEN THE TOUGHEST JOB IN SPORTS BROADCASTING MAKING TELEVISED SOCCER SEEM EXCITING."

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My most memorable moments

GUDALORE JAGANNATH

THERE surely have been few dedicated, disciplined and selfless sportsmen in the history of independent India as Gudalore Jagannath. He is the perfect model for any aspiring youngster trying to become an international star. Born in Hyderabad on March 20, 1945, Jagannath along with his family moved to Madras at an early age. He took to table tennis seriously at the age of 13 and the same year (1958) won the non-medallists' singles title in the first tournament he took part in. He was ranked State junior No. 2 that year, went on to become No. 1 the following year and in 1961 was given top spot in the seniors' list. He first represented India in the world championships in 1965 and this provided the rare instance of two brothers being members of the same squad (his elder brother Ranganayakulu also made the trip to Yugoslavia). He participated in five more World Championships, before announcing his retirement after the Calcutta championships in 1975, saying that he wanted to make way for the youth. Jagannath won the national table tennis title in 1970 at Calcutta, and figured in the top ten in the all-India rankings continuously from 1964 to 1979. After that since he did not play in zonal tournaments, he did not qualify for the ranking list. But time and again, he has proved more than a match for the most promising youngsters in the country. He led India in international events from 1969 to 1975 and was later the coach of the team. In 1971, he was ranked No. 2 in the Commonwealth and among his contemporaries, he has had the best record in international competition. Even now at 37, he puts in his daily practice stint, participates in tournaments, is always ready to give a helping hand to budding youngsters and has initiated many coaching camps in Madras. A chop defence expert from the start of his career, Jagannath is sports the officer with the Integral Coach Factory, a post given to him for his outstanding contribution to Railway sports by the Ministry of Railways.

It has been a long, eventful and rewarding career and I have enjoyed many memorable moments

So many of them are important that I don't know where to start, but I shall try to recount them one by one as they come to mind. Naturally, the winning of the national title was a great day and I won it by dethroning Mir Kasim Ali, who had won the previous two years, in straight games. The 1969 Jabalpur Nationals was also memorable for me. Against all expectations, Railways won the Barna Bellack Cup and I had the good fortune to win all my matches. In the final, a few gave our team any chance against Maharashtra who were represented by Khodaiji, Chachad and Merchant. But we did overcome them in a thrilling tie.

I am particularly proud of my record in the nationals and other domestic tournaments. In the nationals, for example, I was the winner once, runner-up once (to Manjit Dua in Madras in 1974) and reached the semi-finals nine times. Then from 1965 to 1976 I was never beaten before the quarter-final round in any tournament in India. In 1964, Khodaiji beat me in the pre-quarter final in the nationals. The next time I lost before the quarter-final round was not until 1976 when Prem Bedi defeated me in the last 16 stage in the Northern India Regional Tournament. I am the only player to have won the prestigious Times of India tournament at Delhi five times, including three years in a row (1969 to 1971). The Press used to point out that I was the most consistent player on the circuit and my record proved it.

I have had some notable triumphs against international players. In 1974 when the South Korean team visited India, I had a great match against their No. 1 player, Choi Sung Kuk. We shared four games and then in the decider I trailed 17-20. But I took the next five points to win the match. The next year Kuk defeated Stellan Bengtson in the Calcutta World Championships—proof that I had scored a fine victory over a world-ranked star.

The same year, a Japanese team visited India to play five

"Tests". I was the captain but few gave us any chance against our redoubtable opponents. Predictably we lost the first two "Tests". But then my team rallied in superb fashion and we won the next three "Tests" at Nagpur, Gwalior and Meerut.

In the final "Test" I won all my three matches. Also memorable for me was my match against Japan's Kono in 1970. Kono was then ranked No. 2 in the world. He and I were involved, in a splendid match before I lost in five games. This performance gave me immense satisfaction. Another moment to cherish was our match against strong England in the Commonwealth Championships at Singapore in 1971. We led 4-1, only to lose 4-5. But I won two out of my three matches and had fine victories over Tony Clayton and Alan Haydes.

Nearer home, the feats that give me pleasurable memories are my winning the State title six times and Railways title eight times. But high among the list of achievements would rank my performance in this year's World Railway Championships in June. I had a couple of notable triumphs and was ranked third in the world amongst railway players.

In my long career, I have won many laurels and awards. But the one I treasure most are the Arjuna Award (I was among the recipients in 1972), the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association Award (the SK Gurunathan Trophy) for best State Sportsman of the Year in 1971 and the Railway Minister's Award in 1969.

I have never been one to hide my feelings. I always speak out my mind and I am ready to face the consequences. Because of this—and politics too—I was not ranked in 1971. Then in 1973, when I was playing really well (I had won 11 tournaments), I was not selected to represent the country in the World Championships, for some inexplicable reason. The outcry in the Press and the public was so vehement that I was not only included as a member of the team, but was named captain!

As told to PARTAB RAMCHAND

The one-dayers through the wide angles

PATRICK EAGAR on the England – Pakistan highlights



DID YOU SAY LAMB? Allan Lamb pulls one away powerfully



BOWLING BEAUTY Imran Khan chucka down another one



REST DAY? Mudassar Nazar looks to be resting after a dive proves fruitless. He was run out for 51



INVASION Zaheer is mobbed after his fifty as Taylor watches in frustration. Majid appears to shun the invaders at the non-striker's end.



IN GLOVED HANDS Ban ports his leg to the heavens after catching opener Gower off Bakht for 17.

Day's quiz—who will open with Gavaskar?

Discussing India's problems regarding the opening of the innings, PARTAB RAMCHAND scans through the candidates

JUST think of the fantastic batting order" the excited cricket fan told me "Srikkanth at number two Patil at number five and Kapil at number eight We could score at a

rate faster than any side since the days of Bradman Ours could be the most attractive batting side in the world!"

Yes, we could It may involve a



C P S Chauhan - Tell Sunit he will miss me "

couple of "ifs", doesn't fortune favour the brave. Didn't Patil and Kapil prove it in England?

I have always believed that there is too much theory in our cricket. We, in this country, have never really taken to heart the age old story of the coach and the little boy. The latter made a cross batted swipe with such timing that the ball raced to the boundary. The coach pulled up the lad and looked at the position of your legs. They are all wrong", he shouted. The boy's innocent response was "But, sir, look where the ball has gone".

Neville Cardus, once wrote an article entitled "when art triumphs over science". In it, he said that the scientific aspect of cricket was fine. It was correct and had to be obeyed. But you could not make an absolute rule of it. And players of immense talent and variable gifts—commonly sharp eyesight or remarkably fast footwork—could get away with strokes that were not in any coaching manual. (Botham's reverse sweep is a fine example).

The story concerning the little boy and Cardus' shrewd analysis have repeatedly come back to my mind in the last six months or so. Just by when I listened to comments on the batting of Srikkanth in the last series in India. Almost every time he hit a boundary with one of his original shots, the purists predicted disaster, warning everyone that he would never get away with that again and that he should be more careful.

This was the opinion of the Indian commentators. And what was the opinion of English writers and commentators? Just the reverse. Reading their articles in Magazines and hearing their comments over the radio, one found it hard to believe that the two sides were discussing the same batsman.

The English Press had a very high opinion of Srikkanth: his "super fast reflexes", his "quick eye" and "remarkable footwork". The manner in which he hooks so daringly—and without even a cap, let alone a helmet! They obviously set in him another Milburr.

Yes, maybe it was difficult to retain a specialist opening batsman who scored only 119 runs from six innings. But then for his replacement the selectors went to the other extreme, in keeping with our ridiculous obsession with theory. It is commendable to leave the ball alone which does not have to be touched. But then Pranab Roy is inclined to leave almost every ball alone—even the ones he can hit to the boundary. If this is the attitude, he may not get out. But now, will he ever score runs? A colleague in the Press Box insisted during the last Madras Test against England that Roy was certainly a good prospect for England. At any rate better than Srikkanth. The upshot was that this "technically

correct batsman" and a "good prospect for English conditions" could not even get into the Test side. That in itself speaks for his tour record. Now even the cynics, who had scoffed at the manner in which Srikanth batted, seem to agree that he could have fared better than Roy. "At least, he could have got some boundaries by his uppish hooks, risky shots and edges over the slips."

In our country, if you will notice, men like Merchant, Manjrekar and Gavaskar have always been encouraged—and most deservedly so, for, I must hasten to admit, their correct technique. But then, originals like Mushtaq Ali and Kunderan—men who think there are some risks worth taking, are hardly encouraged and this, most undeservedly so. Mushtaq Ali, the "magical conjuror" played only 11 Tests in a 20 year period. Yet, in that time he scored two centuries and had a Test career average of nearly 43. Kunderan, who played only 18 Tests over a 10 year period, scored nearly 1000 runs, had two centuries to himself and roughly the same average as Mushtaq Ali's.

There seemed to be a welcome and fresh change in the selectors' outlook when a batsman like Engineer came in the same mould as Kunderan and Mushtaq Ali played as many as 16 Tests. And the selection of Srikanth raised exciting possibilities. But then again, theory seems to have found precedent over originality.

Yes, it is true that the greatest opening pairs in the history of Test cricket—Hobbs and Sutcliffe, Horton and Washbrook, Lawry and Simpson—have been more or less of the correct and technical type. But then again, one can't make an absolute rule. Why in our own cricket, the finest opening pair of Merchant and Mushtaq Ali did differ from each other, as the inimitable Ray Robinson once put it "as curry and rice and just as effective in combination".

And this holds good even when you come down to our other great pair of Gavaskar and Chauhan. Well, you certainly cannot class Chauhan in the 'correct classical or technical' mould. Some of his shots against Jallef Pascoe, Imran and Botham would horrify the purists. But then, one has to gently point out to them that the two have shared 10 century stands for the first wicket.

Interestingly, on closer scrutiny I find that the averages of Mushtaq, Kunderan and Engineer are only a little lower than some 'classical' or 'technically correct' players like Manjrekar, Borde and Sardesai. This proves that despite not been given proper encouragement, the unorthodox or original the strokeplayer has not been a failure or a risk as has been thought of Indian cricket. It is myth that has been exploded violently by men like Patil, Kapil and Srikanth and some other young batsmen of the future have it in them to break the myth wide open once

and for all.

In fact, just the other day I was speaking to Srikanth. I pointed out to him that with both Parkar and Roy having failed, he had another chance to regain his Test place. He had the talent, the gifts, the quick eye, the fast reflexes and all the strokes. All he had to do was to curb those sudden rushes of blood to his head and avoid indiscreet strokes. The 22 year old batsman, now sporting a beard, told me that he had given it a lot of thought and was concentrating on cutting out 'stupid and foolish' shots. The cricket season in Madras has just started and one has already seen a new Srikanth applying himself more judiciously to each and every delivery.

He has a real chance of staging a comeback because there is a Test against Sri Lanka at Madras in September and Srikanth, being familiar with their attack, can be counted upon to deal effectively—even in cavalier fashion—with them.



K K Srikanth looks the other way. The problem is that the selectors will do the same when it comes to choosing him.

It however for some reason or the other the selectors still feel uncomfortable about Srikanth, they need not look any further than that old reliable Delhi war horse—Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan. Ever since Umrigar took over as the chairman of the selection committee, there has generally been a "don't look back" policy. There was a slight change in this policy in the early days of Umrigar as chairman of the committee. Chandrasekhar and Bedi were recalled for the England tour of 1979, but that has been about all. From then on it has generally been "age dhekho", (look forward). There has certainly been no comeback as far as I can recall, except Madan Lal who pushed his way in through sheer merit and by performances one just could not overlook.

Now I am all in favour of youth getting its chance. But when there is really not a single young person in the same class as the experienced player, surely the latter should be

called back. For evidence I offer the record of the England selectors. Over the years they have recalled old cricketers, and, more often than not, these players have vindicated the selectors' choice. English cricket history is full of such heart warming stories. At various stages men like Wilfred Rhodes, Cyril Washbrook, Ted Dexter, Brian Close, Tom Graveney and Colin Cowdrey have been recalled only to come off with flying colours. Yes, whichever way I the situation, it has to be either Srikanth or Chauhan as Gavaskar's opening partner in the coming season. There is absolutely no point in trying anyone else, because for all you know he may go the way of Parkar or Roy—a bad investment for the future.

And while on the subject of opening batsmen, one must protest against the manner in which Shastri was thrust into this specialist position. What a sorry state of affairs? You go to England with three spe-

cialist opening batsmen and by the second Test you have discarded two of them and pushed in a batsman whose legitimate position is number eight or nine. This yo-yo treatment of young batsmen has led to many players having been sacrificed in the past. Take Ashok Mankad as a prime example. He made his debut in the middle order, was pushed into the opening position because the situation was desperate and then demoted again when another batsman was found to partner Gavaskar. His career virtually ground to a halt quite like, as Bedi warned in an interview, that "Shastri's career is being ruined". Gavaskar himself admitted at the end of the series that, "Shastri was too valuable a player lower down to go in opening". Let Shastri stay at number eight from where he can play a valuable part in bolstering the innings. Chauhan's words have come true "tell Sunil he will miss me in England". Didn't you, skipper?

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I should have got more chances

T. E. Srinivasan, who toured Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81, talks to PARTAB RAMCHAND and feels that the reason why he was not given more opportunities was because he refused to be anybody's 'chamcha' in the Indian cricket hierarchy.

SPORTSWORLD. In the last five years you have been acknowledged as one of the leading stroke-players in the country. How do you account for the fact that you have played in only one Test?

T. E. SRINIVASAN. I feel that I should have got more chances. But then a lot of things are involved in Indian cricket other than cricket itself. I am sure people know about this but nothing can be done. That is the pity.

SW. What exactly do you mean that a lot of things are involved in our

cricket other than cricket? can you elaborate this point?

T. E. S. Certain Test cricketers who do not deserve a chance are given more than their due shares. Regionalism is still unfortunately the bane of Indian cricket. Secularism in sports is a dangerous thing and is destroying the game. People used to say that this sort of thing was rampant in earlier days. But it is still prevalent even today. For example, when the entire team in New Zealand last year was playing in a district match, Bharat Reddy and I were

sent to play in some Prime Minister's benefit game, which was of the standard played by ladies.

SW. Can you give specific instances of the raw deal you have received?

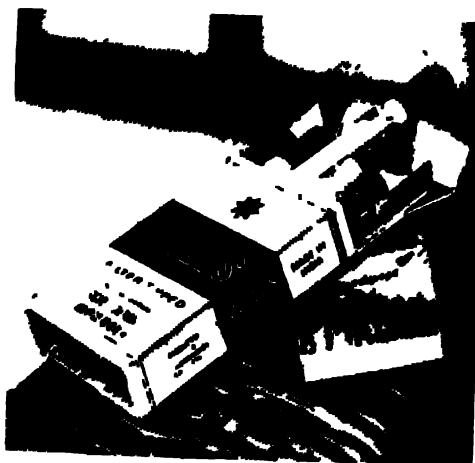
T. E. S. For example, for the South Zone match against Pakistan in January 1980 I was not picked for some inexplicable reason. Then at the last moment Vishwanath dropped himself and I was included. I got a hundred. Now if the South Zone selectors do not show confidence in me, how does one expect the national selectors to pick me? Still, I have



T. E. Srinivasan looks Iqbal Qasim and Taslim Arif look on



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got runs at the highest level at home, in the Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Deodhar Trophy and against visiting teams and yet, repeatedly I found myself being passed over. I had been on trial for so many years before being finally picked for the tour of Australia and New Zealand, while many others who do not deserve a place, have found places in the national side all too quickly.

SW: Tell us something about that tour.

T E S: I was happy at being selected, of course, and I must say that I enjoyed the tour. But cricket-wise I have a lot of reservations. I was picked essentially for one-day matches since my record in these in India was excellent. But soon I found that besides getting only the odd first class game, I was not even being picked for one day games. Binnv and

Certain Test cricketers who do not deserve a chance are given more than their due shares.

Chauhan opened more often with Gavaskar and even Kirti Azad played more such games than me. There were some 16 one-day matches on that tour and I was played in only six. In three of them I got past the half century mark. I did not play a single one day game in New Zealand. Even in the first-class games I did not fail. I got many thirties. The tour figures will bear me out for my record is better than Vishwanath, Binnv, Kirmant, Kapil Dev and Azad. This, despite the fact that I hardly had any opportunities. It seemed like I had to get hundreds and double centuries to get into the Indian team. If I failed once, I was immediately dropped. Others who failed were persevered with.

Take the New Zealand leg of the tour as another instance. In the opening game I got 90 after facing the new ball. Azad got a 100 lower down and he was selected for the first Test. If they could not dislodge the Gavaskar-Chauhan pairing, they could at least have tried me out in the middle order. When a middle order batsman can be tried out as an opener, as Shastri was tried out recently on the England tour, why can't an opening batsman be tried out in the middle order?

SW: But you finally got a chance in the last Test in the middle order, didn't you?

T E S: That's after they had tried everyone. Azad was played, then Yograj. Some other players seemed tired of the cricket as this was the flag end of a tiring tour. So Yashpal was dropped and I was accommodated. I batted well at number six and scored 29 and then was out to a highly doubtful caught-behind decision. In the second innings I was

asked to go in at number three and on a difficult wicket stayed for 100 minutes and got 19.

SW: While on the subject of batting order, how come you were taken as opening batsman? you were essentially a middle order bat.

T E S: I agreed to open the batting because I saw there was no other way to get into the Indian team. The middle order was already packed. When they did not select Surinder Amarnath, who got 250 in the Iran Trophy match, I knew it was pointless to try for a place in the middle order.

SW: How was your relationship with Gavaskar?

T E S: He was good to me. He talked to me, encouraged me. We got along very well.

SW: You matured late. You never really got into reckoning for a Test place till you were in your late twenties and you finally made the grade when you were 30. Do you think the age factor could have limited your opportunities?

T E S: I have always believed that you have to pick the best man for the job whatever his age—provided he is fit enough. Age is nothing. Fitness is everything. Let me give you an example. Venkataraghavan is 37 but he is still fitter than most of the younger members of the current squad. Now he is still by far the best off spinner in the land and should have walked into the touring team for England. The same is the case with Chauhan. A 40-year old man who is fit should gain preference over a 20 year-old man who is not fit. Age should not count at all.



T E Srinivasan

SW: But if you will notice, the accent has been on youth ever since Umrigar took over as chairman of the selection committee.

T E S: The accent should be on good blood, not just young blood. If the older man is better than the younger man then the former should be taken. If they want to concentrate only on youth, then let them select

the under 22 team for a tour. We are carrying this inclination towards youth too far and in the process giving a lot of youngsters a chance, men who don't deserve to get in in the first place and men who are not physically fit.

SW: But they have these fitness camps before tours. What about them?

T E S: These camps are a waste. The duration is too short. Physical weaknesses cannot be fully covered. For example I know that those who are not fast enough stand in the slips and those with slow reflexes stand in the outfield.

SW: I have heard other cricketers tell me "Srinivasan's greatest enemy is Srinivasan himself. He is proud, arrogant, thinks he is the greatest. That's why despite his talent and natural gifts he can never come up". How do you refute this charge?

I am not proud or arrogant and I do not think that I am the greatest.

T E S: Simply by saying that I have no "headweight". I am not proud or arrogant and I do not think that I am the greatest. The moment you think that you are the greatest you will stop practising, but I still practise, exercise, do my running for three hours every day.

Yes I have heard some people say that I am not friendly. But if by friendly they mean being a "chamcha" then I certainly am not friendly. Perhaps, if you want to come up in Indian cricket, you have to be a 'chamcha' to the higher-ups. This I have never done and will never do. Maybe that is one of the reasons. That has restricted my opportunities. In fact, besides feeling that should have got more chances, I also believe that I should have been selected earlier than when I actually was. I have never fought against anyone, there have been no hard feelings and I have generally behaved well. But then in Indian cricket, you need a godfather and I don't have one.

SW: What about the story that when you reached Australia you told somebody to go and "tell Dennis (Laljee) 'T E' is here"?

T E S: I don't know how that story is being attributed to me. Actually it was Chetan (Chauhan) who said that and, in fact, a couple of Australian papers gave wide publicity to it. This just proves my point that there are people out to malign me.

SW: What are your plans now?

T E S: Well I was on trial for so many years before I was selected. And now it looks like I am on a second trial—to fight my way back into the team. I will continue to try and make as many runs as I can in the domestic cricket and see if I can come back.

The Italian Odyssey

DEREK O'BRIEN reviews the progress of this year's champions, Italy, from Montevideo to Madrid in the 52-year history of the World Cup.

It is in the fitness of things that Italy has the shape of a boot. The land of Garibaldi and Mussolini boasts of a football history which probably only Brazil can equal. Their enigmatic story in the eleven of the twelve World Cups played so far echoes the words of Rudyard Kipling to "meet with triumph and disaster and treat both those imposters just the same."

After much deliberation the World Cup, fathered by the Frenchmen Jules Rimet and Henri Delaunay, was born in 1930. Italy along with Sweden, Spain and Holland did not like the idea of the competition being staged in faraway Montevideo, Uruguay, and boycotted the tournament which finally, the hosts won. It was not a good start by Italy, if one can call it a start.

Four years later Italy made its debut in the world's premier football tournament and, what is more, played host to the sixteen nations that took part. This time Uruguay, the holders, reciprocated by staying away. Italy had a remarkable team manager in Vittorio Pozzo, the man who was to do so much for Italian football. He drew from the martial fascist spirit of the times the authority and inspiration to build a fine team.

In their first match they erupted in true Vesuvius fashion with a powerful defence and a clever attack to destroy the United States of America by seven goals to one. The Italians then took on the Spaniards in the second round. But here they came up against an outstanding display by the Spanish goalkeeper Zamora and were held to a one-all draw. Zamora missed the replay because he had been roughed up in the previous game but then, Italy were without four of their regulars. The Italians scraped home thanks to a corner kick by Meazza, one of the most talented footballers Italy has ever produced, which Orsi headed in. In the semi-finals Italy faced Austria, once the *wunderteam*, but now past its best. A well rehearsed move from a corner saw Guaita find the Austrian net and Italy had entered the final on their maiden appearance, where they took on Czechoslovakia. The pressure of the final had de-

timental side effects and the football played did neither side proud. The Italians were a goal down twenty minutes from the end and the Czechs should have been two up, but were deprived by missing a simple chance and later hitting the post. Then a brilliant solo run climaxed by a viciously swerving shot executed by Orsi restored parity. Was the shot a fluke or a feat of brilliance? The next day Orsi attempted many times to repeat the shot for the benefit of the Press, facing an empty goal, but failed! The match was decided in extra time when a tired Schiavio beat the Czech custodian with what the scorer later termed 'the strength of desperation' and Italy were World champions!

The 1938 tournament set the trend for a combination of home ground frenzied supporters and timid referees which were to give future host nations an advantage in the competition. Nevertheless, the Italians must be given full credit for their fitness and single-mindedness.

Four years later the scene shifted to France. The World champions, who according to Pozzo, were even stronger than they had been in 1930, had to exert every sinew to get past gallant Norway in the first round (2-1), and that too in extra time. It was the Italian goalkeeper Olivieri who stood between his team and defeat. The Italians then met the hosts France in the second round and with Piola doing a great job in mid-field and scoring two goals, the Italians cruised home 3-1.

Brazil from whom much was expected, were their opponents in a semi-final of frayed tempers, which Pozzo's boys won by the odd goal in three, including a penalty in their favour. Then on to the final. Italy Vs Hungary. The Hungarians could not stem the Italian tide and the World Cup was Italy's for the second year in succession as their speed and energy outplayed the Hungarian's grace and precision to win 4-2. The next year the World was plunged into War and the Cup was to remain in Rome till 1950.

The hills of Brazil were the stage for the fourth World Cup, now known as the Jules Rimet trophy. Only a few months before, in one of

the most tragic accidents in sporting history, the entire talented Torino team, comprising mainly national players, was killed in a plane crash while returning home from a friendly match. The Superga air disaster had appalling repercussions.

It was at that stage that Ferruccio Novo took over the reins from the legendary Pozzo and the Italians now participated in a tournament, for the first time played on a league-cum-knockout basis. Managerial and selection rows had got the better of Italian football. Nevertheless, the Italian captain Carapallesi put the defending champions ahead in their opening match against Sweden. The latter however had 'Swede' revenge and finally edged past the champions 2-2. In their next match Italy put it across Paraguay by two clear goals. Earlier however, Sweden, the giantkillers, were through to the final round (only one team qualifying from each group) as they played out a two all draw against the South Americans. The Italians were out, and superstitious of air travel, began their long, sad sea voyage back home.

Next stop Switzerland, the land of chocolates and cuckoo clocks. The year 1954. This time the quarter finals were to be played after completion of the pool matches and the Magical Magyars were firm favourites to wrest the trophy from Uruguay.

The Italian team had the incompetent Lajos Czeizler as their manager. They were drawn in Pool IV along with England, Switzerland and Belgium. The vicissitudes of Italian football were best demonstrated at Lausanne where they met the Swiss. Erratic refereeing by Brazil's Viana led to pandemonium and the Italians were unlucky losers of this crucial tie. "An English or Scottish referee", wrote a French critic, "would have given two or three penalties in the first half against the Swiss, and would have sent two Italian backs off in the second. But there it was, a plethora of fouls had had the last word and it was against Italy."

The Italians under the new rules did not have to play England, the other seeded team in their group. However, in their last pool encounter they beat a tired Belgian 4-1 and earned a play off against Switzerland who had lost to a mediocre English team 2-0. The Italians were the favourites, but never looked the part as the Swiss swamped them. The 4-1 loss prompted a well known Italian daily to write, "The loss in 1952 was not a defeat, it was disaster. We left the stadium in a state of authentic prostration, unable to look the Swiss in the face."

Brian Glanville best sums up the World Cup played in Sweden in 1958. He writes "It was notable for the emergence of 4-2-4, the explosion of Pele, the first victory of Brazil, the

surprise of France and Fontaine" and, one may add, the disappearance of Italy from the top rung of the ladder of international football. While Garrincha, Pele and Santos dazzled the crowds, the Cup winners of 1934 and 1938 had to stay at home; they had failed to qualify from the 53 teams vying for the sixteen places in the final round.

IN 1962 the competition moved back to South America, this time to Chile. The pool qualifying system took into account goal average. Italian football had not yet recovered from the decline of the Fifties and at the same time were in the chains of *catenaccio* but they made it to Chile where their first match was against the hosts at Santiago. It was more of a brawl than a match with vicious fouls which reduced the Europeans to nine men. Chile duly scored two late goals. Italy's next match was against the tough Germans. In a match of defences neither side scored. The Germans, however, made it to the quarter-finals along with Chile whom they overcame 2-0. Italy's early 1-0 win over Switzerland was inconsequential.

John Bull played host to the 1966 tournament which saw Italian football sink further into the doldrums. The blue shirts opened their campaign against Chile, reduced to ten men for greater part of the second-half. An over-cautious Italy won a dull encounter 2-0. But that was to be the first and last win for the Italians. Faulty selection caused the side to fall apart against a hard Russian team who won through a fine second-half goal. But the Italian cup of woe was not yet full. In their final group match they were shocked and humiliated by debutants North Korea 1-0. The Italian giant was flattened and out cold in the cellar of international football.

Altitude and heat were the two biggest problems teams faced in the 1970 tournament in Mexico. Italy pinned all their hopes on Luigi Riva's lethal left foot to pound home the goals. In their opening game against Sweden after an early goal by Domenghini they back-pedalled into defence, satisfied with that 1-0 victory. Obsessed with fear of defeat and *catenaccio*, they played two dreary draws against Israel and former champions Uruguay—Riva had not scored at all proving that a shooting star cannot shine on his own.

In the quarter-finals Italy faced Mexico. Mexico shot into an early lead. How often in the past had the Italians succumbed to a home team? However, the great individual skills of the Italians were allowed free play and they swept past Mexico with two goals by Riva and one each by Domenghini and Rivera.

West Germany who had come through the quarter-finals after a grim struggle against England faced Italy in the semi-finals. Italy shot

into an early lead and then held out against a German blitzkrieg only to succumb to the equaliser in the dying minutes of the match. Extra time was a thriller. A defensive blunder allowed Germany to draw first blood through the great Gerd Müller but Italy soon restored parity. Then Riva swivelled to drive home and Italy were ahead. The Germans were far from finished. A corner was nodded across the goal for Müller to head in the equaliser. Finally the Italians got one last goal and were through. It had been a long and hard journey from 1938.

In the finals against mighty Brazil Italy reverted to negative football. After neutralising Brazil's opening goal they folded up and succumbed 4-1.

1974 was the World Cup of 'Total Football' played in West Germany. Italy went into the final rounds as one of the favourites, the unbeatable



Enzo Bearzot

Dino Zoff in goal, Riva to score and Rivera to scheme. Italy has been so much a part of Italy's World Cup story. In their opening match against unknown Haiti the Italians were shocked when Zoff conceded a goal. However, they rallied to brush aside the debutants.

Italy's next encounter was against Argentina. The Italian manager Valcareggi made some unpardonable mistakes regarding the selection of the team and the Italians were lucky to draw 1-1. As such, Italy had to draw with Poland to stay in, the Poles beat them easily and once again Italy returned home frustrated.

In 1978 the World Cup crossed the Atlantic for the gauchos to see the tournament final in Buenos Aires. As Webber and Rice were working out the chords for 'Don't cry for me Argentina' Enzo Bearzot, the new Italian manager, was getting his team

ready for the Argentine campaign. Amid controversy, Italy were drawn in a pool along with Argentina, France and Hungary.

Within a few seconds after the match began against France, the Italians found themselves a goal down. A familiar situation but—the words of Dino Zoff—"We wanted to show them we weren't the imbeciles they took us for". It did not take long for Bearzot's men to prove their point. Paolo Rossi and Roberto Bettaga were in superb form and the score after the long whistle was Italy 2 France 1.

In the second of three pool matches the Italians made sure of qualifying by scoring twice without reply against Hungary. Thus the last on counter against the hosts would only decide who would top the group. The match got underway with the home crowd at their vociferous best and Abraham Klein, the little Israeli referee did well to keep things under control. Kempes and Passarella attempted a blockbuster each at goal only to find the evergreen Dino Zoff in the way. Bettaga silenced the home crowd 23 minutes from the end when he scored after a neat bout of passing with Rossi and Italy were in the first of the two groups of the final round in the company of the Dutch, the West Germans and the Austrians.

With the Germans building the Berlin Wall in Buenos Aires and the Italians missing many a good chance, their meeting in the opening match of the final round ended blank. Italy were a tired bunch when they took on the Austrians in a subsequent tie and were lucky that their questionable tackles were overlooked by the Belgian referee. However, the match winner scored by the Italians was a beauty. Paolo Rossi after dribbling past a host of Austrian defenders found Koncinski, who made no mistake.

Italy were assured of a place in the semi-final even before they took on the Dutch in the last match of Group A. Unlike most of their other encounters it was the Italians who drew first blood, thanks to a set goal by Emy Brandts. The Dutch pulled themselves together and scored twice in the second half to enter the final.

The Italians met Brazil in the play-off for third place and Causio's goal was the only one they scored in reply to two by the Brazilians. Fourth place was all the Italians got, but one must not forget that they were the only team to beat Argentina, the eventual winners of the competition.

The Italian success story at Madrid is too well known to bear repetition. However, one might add, that this peninsula which has a proud tradition dating from the days of the Roman Empire now has football as the most popular of its delicacies, after, of course, the pizza and Gino Lollobrigida.

Tennis rivalry of the Eighties

John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl are the men to watch, says RAHUL JACOB

IVAN LENDL and John McEnroe both had a meteoric rise to the top of tennis. McEnroe, perhaps, more so. At Wimbledon 1977, McEnroe shot to fame from an unknown qualifier to a surprise semi-finalist. The then 19-year-old McEnroe lost a tense four-setter to Jimmy Connors. A week later, he lost to—hold your breath—Anand Amritraj at Newport. Inconsistent he may be, but McEnroe has always been a comer. By the end of 1978 McEnroe was really climbing. At Wimbledon 1979, he was seeded second but was upset by Tim Gullikson. At the US Open that year, McEnroe was a convincing winner. He destroyed Jimmy Connors in straight sets, avenging a humiliating defeat by Connors the previous year. The final was a battle of New Yorkers. McEnroe played close aggressive tennis to come out on top over Gerulaitis in three close sets. In 1980, McEnroe downed Connors at Wimbledon in the most acrimonious match ever witnessed. In fact, it was described as the closest the two men had come to having fistbuffs on the hallowed turf of the Centre Court. In what has been labelled the best final in Wimbledon's 105 years, McEnroe came a cropper in that glorious five-setter (saving 7 match points) by 6-1, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-8. At the US Open that year he paid Borg back in the same coin in an even longer five-setter. Last year, McEnroe was the undisputed world No. 1 beating Borg decisively in two four-setters in the finals at Wimbledon and Flushing Meadows.

Lendl made a very fast rise to the top echelons of the computer rankings. At the end of 1978, he was the world's top junior. At the end of 1979, he was ranked 20th. By the beginning of 1981, Lendl was in the vicinity of the *numero uno* position. And that was when the rumblings started, the tom-toms were beating to herald a new battle for the throne of men's tennis. Just after Wimbledon last year, Lendl stunned McEnroe by clubbing him in three long sets in the Davis Cup quarter-finals between USA and Czechoslovakia. And that heart-ickening loss was in

New York in front of McEnroe's home crowd. At the US Open, everybody was looking forward to the anticipated McEnroe-Lendl semi-final, but an inspired Vitas Gerulaitis had other ideas. Gerulaitis put Lendl out in a thrilling pre-quarter final five-setter. Lendl was not unduly perturbed (Vijay says that one of Lendl's principal assets is his immense self-confidence). Lendl went on a rampage on the circuit after the US Open. In one five-week stretch, he won five straight Volvo Grand Prix tournaments—an achievement unprecedented in the Grand Prix history. That streak was broken when Lendl came to Calcutta to play that unforgettable Classic Event.

After that brief respite the rampage resumed. In January, at the Volvo Masters, it was time for another McEnroe-Lendl clash. Once again Lendl was the master, McEnroe's weak approach shots being punished severely by Lendl's devastating forehand passing shots. McEnroe was crushed in front of a large Madison Square Garden crowd, 6-4, 6-2. Following the Masters, Lendl's relentless march continued. Opponents were steamrolled ruthlessly. Till the final at La Quinta Lendl had won an incredible 44 consecutive matches since that loss to Gerulaitis at Flushing Meadow. France's Yannick Noah (Winner of the Calcutta Grand Prix in 1978) stopped him by 2 sets to 1.

Lendl's aura of invincibility received another blow at Monte Carlo. A rejuvenated Guillermo Vilas, making a welcome return to form, trounced Lendl 6-1, 7-6, 6-3. Then at Madrid he came from behind to beat Lendl 6-7, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-3. Both these victories were on clay. This means that Lendl's claims to the world's premier clay court event—the French Open—will meet with stiff opposition. At the WCT Masters in Dallas, Lendl beat his good friend, mentor and business adviser Wojtek Fibak in the quarters. In the semis, Lendl blew Vijay Amritraj off court 6-0, 6-1, 7-5. Amritraj later commented that he had never played anyone who hit so hard since Rod Laver.

As he good naturedly put it, "I'm happy to have got out of there alive." (Vijay got his revenge when he became the 3rd player to beat Lendl in 4 months. He surprised Lendl 7-6, 3-6, 7-5 in Tokyo). The irony is that McEnroe has also been compared to Laver, though for a different reason—his rich stroke repertoire. Said the legendary Laver deprecatingly, "I'm honoured to be compared to him (McEnroe)." In the finals, Lendl took McEnroe in four sets.

As usual, Ivan's passing shots and strong serve battered McEnroe into submission. Earlier McEnroe had said, "If he thinks that he is number one, he is very wrong." This time he had to admit that Lendl was the superior player on that day. The week after Dallas, Lendl cracked the million dollar mark in just four months.

Having read accounts of Lendl's string of successes against his American rival, one might be filled with cynicism as to the prospects of this so-called 'rivalry of the 80's'. Yet we must keep in mind that in the last four months McEnroe has been going through a lean spell. His ankle was injured in March just after the Davis Cup tie against India. McEnroe may be down, but he is not out, this fiery American is a fighter not a quitter. When his confidence returns, he will be back with a vengeance to teach Lendl a thing or two. When McEnroe gets the measure of Lendl's passing shots (as he did Borg's) the fireworks will really begin.

On the other hand, McEnroe is a natural volleyer. He likes to attack and get to the net at the earliest opportunity. McEnroe's touch is superb, his timing exquisite. His "groundies" are innovative, his drop volleys played with a featherlike touch. His serve is the best in the game. McEnroe never practises, he doesn't need to, he has talent in abundance.

Yet it is difficult to perceive what might happen in the future. These two, the hopes of tennis, could succumb to injury. (Tony Roche was all set to give Laver a stiff opposition in the late 60's, when tragically his elbow packed up and the castle crumbled.) Or they could become victims of the dreaded disease—Tennis Brain—as diagnosed by Mike Lupica. According to Lupica, "Tennis Brain" is the latest sad affliction to suffer from after "Tennis Elbow" and "Tennis Groin".

One thing is certain, the Lendl-McEnroe matches on grass and clay will be one-sided. But on Deco Turf II and indoor surfaces, (Supreme carpet) their encounters should keep tennis aficionados on the edge of their seats for years to come. McEnroe and Lendl: Fire and Ice. "The rivalry of the 80's." Yes, this could be a Battle Royal. May the best man win.

FOREST HILL



MOHUN BAGAN From climax to catastrophe

What has really gone wrong with the side that, only three months ago, lifted the Federation Cup in style? DEREK O'BRIEN investigates

MINUTES before the start of one of their matches in the 82nd Calcutta League, avid Mohun Bagan supporters in the northern stands hoisted on a makeshift apparatus a massive maroon and green flag. Ironically, the frailty of the setup caused the flag to slip down unintentionally to halfmast for the greater part of the match in question. Although it was not apparent, the

intention might perhaps have been to mourn for the pathetic display of their favourite team. It was hard to believe that this was last year's League runners up and the present holders of the prestigious Federation Cup.

What has gone wrong with a team which till only a few months ago, had established itself as the top football side in the country? Mohun Bagan

had started brilliantly in the Stafford and Federation Cup tournaments, only to stumble embarrassingly in the Calcutta Senior League. There are many reasons why the sudden, surprising slump took place. Indeed, many an 'adda' has ended in a brawl while fans have attempted to analyse what precisely is the actual cause for the humiliation of Mohun Bagan.



The beginning of the end: East Bengal fans exit after their team scored against Mohun Bagan

TAPAN DAS

One must actually be allowed to back-pedal on the wheels of time and take the reader back to March 1982, at which time the Calcutta football transfer season was in full swing. On paper, certainly, Mohun Bagan came out with the strongest side, a perfect blend of mellow vintage wine and bubbling champagne. The prized trio of Indian football, Bidesh Bose, Manas Bhattacharya, and Prasun Banerjee put away the black and white shirts of rivals Mohammedan Sporting into mothballs and decided to sign for Mohun Bagan instead.

These three players, along with Atanu Bhattacharya, Compton Dutta, Samar Bhattacharya, Shyamal Banerjee, Sudip Chatterjee, Xavier Pius, Biswajit Bose and in the later stages, Francis D'Souza all had to answer the call of national duty. To be sure, India benefitted, but the popular Calcutta club came out the relative losers in the deal.

Nevertheless, it is said that the eleven players who donned national colours to join the Asian Games camp received about Rs 30,000 each to sign up for Mohun Bagan. It was, in a sense, easy money for them, considering that the only chance they will have of assisting their side will be in the two tournaments after the Asiad.

Why then did Mohun Bagan sign on these players and cough up over Rs three lakhs in the process? Admittedly, they need the assistance of these national players in the post-Asiad tournaments, but is it worth the price that the club is paying? It is certainly excellent for the prestige of a particular club to have some of its players included in the national squad — an added bonus, in these days of high-powered advertising — but surely the money could have been put to better use than merely buying a national eleven.

The Mohun Bagan officials in the football transfer market — Haru Mondal, Kashi Mondal, and the football secretary Ajit Dutta — undoubtedly did a great job in securing the services of so many top flight players. However, it would perhaps not be out of place to mention that they lacked foresight when it came to looking for players who would be at hand the whole time and who would actually assist the club in the search for top soccer honours. And is there any guarantee that these same stars will not sign up for a different club the next season?

The overall result is a team that possesses only three players to fill that position so vital to modern football — that of the linkman Prasun, of course, was to be away at the camps, leaving Bikash Panji, Sujas Bera, and Gautam Sarkar to play nearly forty matches from the Stafford Cup to the IFA Shield. I firmly believed that these three medios would do the job between themselves. It is very unfortunate that



Bagan's Subrata Bhattacharya in action—complacency personified

Panji and Bera both injured their knees in the early stages of the League. Besides Gautam is still recovering from an ankle injury which he sustained at Konkhode. A charming and soft spoken Shankar Banerjee, coach of the Mohun Bagan side since 1980, said after a strenuous morning workout at the club ground. In this regard, Banerjee had been optimistic but it would have been good insurance if his team had acquired a few more mid field players of repute.

By far the most serious problem faced by Mohun Bagan this season has been that of injuries to leading players. It is said that this is one of the recurring nightmares for coaches the world over and in this respect the coaches on the Calcutta maidan are no exception. No coach or manager likes to hear that a leading player — or any player, for that matter — is injured and will not take the field for a particular encounter. Apart from affecting the composition of the side in question, it also sometimes has an adverse effect on the remaining players who are forced to function without a vital link in the chain. It does not matter if there are several players of the same calibre to replace an injured player for whether a coach will admit it or not, injuries have a psychological effect on teams as a whole.

As Shankar Banerjee so rightly says, 'I never believed that we could be so severely set back by injuries. Every team does have its fitness problems, with one or two players always on the injured list. However,

this year, we have suffered rather rudely at the hands of fate. My injury list grows longer with each passing match. As it stands right now, none of my linkmen is one hundred per cent fit. The situation in the forward line is no better. Surajit's old knee injury has cropped up once again. Ulganathan has followed suit, and to make matters worse, the promising Denis Williamson has pulled a hamstring. Our captain, Shyam, has been running a temperature periodically. As even the casual observer can see, we are really having a run of bad luck.'

There is, however, another side to the story. It is best explained by respected orthopaedic surgeon — a specialist in sports injuries — Dr Kalyan Mukherjee, who treats most of the players from the glamour team, 'Our footballers do not go about their training in a proper scientific manner and this is the primary reason why they sustain so many injuries. If they followed this simple principle, it would automatically follow that they would become less injury prone.' Surely, the doctor has a point.

Calcutta's soccer players are generally well conditioned as they put in hours of practice. It automatically follows that they should not be so prone to injury as they are. What could be the chief reason for this state of affairs? In the words of Dr Mukherjee, 'The players are not entirely to blame. The reason is simple. They are treated like machines.'

Says Dr Mukherjee, 'I should not be surprised if a Gautam Sarkar or a Surajit Sengupta is called upon to

सुराजित सेंगुप्ता
SUJAT SENGUPTA
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA





play fifty matches a season. This is just too much, for no player can be asked to give so much for his side, no matter how bad the situation is. This is precisely what has happened to Mohun Bagan this season. They have had far too much soccer, a surfeit of the game, and this is the logical price they have to pay for it. This is why they now find themselves in what is literally a back to the wall position with regard to the Calcutta League.

As said and done, one cannot help but sympathise with Shyam Thapa's men. Injury has indeed taken a heavy toll, decimating the forward line and crippling the midfielders as well.

The only section of the team seems to have escaped clear of the ravages of broken bones and physical mischance is the deep defence. We pinned all my hopes on my defenders as I realised that this was the "strongest department" the Mohun Bagan coach admitted.

Undoubtedly, Satyajit Ghosh and Krishnendu Roy have been ourst and out. The latter is an asset to any team. He has the ability to adapt himself to the needs of a situation or position. Shyam Thapa feels Satyajit Ghosh can make it right to the top very soon if he maintains this tempo. Gauranga Banerjee after a very good season with Mohammedan Sports last year, has failed to recapture the form that was expected of him. His play has not been consistent and he is essentially a one-trick player. One could not expect too much from the youngsters Samiran Saha and Swapan Saha Roy. As such, it was left to Subrata Bhattacharya to take charge of proceedings.

The latter bears an increasingly heavy responsibility on his shoulders this year and his attitude and poor form are prime reasons for the disappointing form of the glamour team in the current League. He is completely personified. Over the years, he wears of the Number 16 jersey, he has done yeoman service for the club and has on many an occasion played with a lumb to keep the Mohun Bagan flag flying. However, he has not won many friends this year. In his Lam the game attitude, in his practice sessions he rarely picks up his customary position of centre half, but insists in playing as a defender. This sort of attitude does not help him much good.

When it comes to experience behind the Subrata, he would hold the key to the club's fate against East Bengal. Yet players and officials alike agreed that he did not deliver the good in what was the crucial game for Mohun Bagan. It was one of those rare occasions when the talented Subrata proved badly.

Indeed, before the encounter, Subrata is reported to have said "If we lose this match, I will give up football." By making such a statement he left himself open to a great deal of criticism and also put addi-

tional pressure on himself and the other youngsters in the side. Nevertheless, one is confident that better sense will prevail and that Subrata will soon put all this behind him and bring Mohun Bagan glamour, garlands and glory.

The match that really upset the Mohun Bagan applecart was their solitary goal defeat against traditional rivals, East Bengal. "We went into the match with the idea of playing for a win, as we knew that such a result would determine the fate of the League." The rest, of course, is history.

Shyam Thapa, the Mohun Bagan skipper admitted "East Bengal were the better side, they were far more balanced. We had played very badly



Training session in progress at the Bagan ground

in the buildup games and our dependable stopper Subrata had an off day just when we needed him most." This best sums up the encounter that must surely have given the Mohun Bagan fans nightmares.

After the match, there was pandemonium outside the Mohun Bagan tent. There were screams of "Subrata ke mere phalo" (kill Subrata) and some of the senior players had to come to pacify the crowd. In the words of Subrata, the crowd "has a very short memory." True, the fans should have been a little more rational in their approach to the situation, but then, this rarely happens. And it was strange to see Subrata, who has been worshipped by

the crowds on the maiden for so long, at the wrong end of the stick.

Another mystery after the East Bengal Mohun Bagan encounter was the disappearance of the club's football secretary, Mr Ajit Dutta. Shyam Thapa did not pull his punches when he said "The confidence of our team was completely shattered after that defeat and there was gloom all round the tent. We needed someone to boost our confidence and the man who should have done that was the football secretary. Unfortunately, he did not come back to the tent after we returned from the Eden Gardens for fear of being manhandled. How can a football secretary carry on in such a manner?" In all fairness, Mr Dutta should indeed have been on hand.

In fact, criticism of the club's football secretary is not confined to the players alone. This could lead one to conclude that the only thing common to the Bagan players is their attitude to Mr Dutta. In the words of Shyam Thapa, "Mr Dutta holds an important job and as such cannot devote much time to the club. He is not fit for the post of football secretary as we hardly ever see him. During morning training sessions, he is certainly conspicuous by his absence. A player who prefers not to be named says: 'It had become more or less a convention that we would be given a new pair of shorts or a pair of stockings before a match, but now Mr Dutta does not bother to sanction our requirements.'"

Coach Shaankar Banerjee was tightlipped when asked about the relationship between the players and the football secretary. One of his comments, though, bears relevance. "There is no relationship. Both Banerjee and Thapa are cyspoking by nature and bear no malice towards Mr Dutta. Their feelings reflect the mood of the team as a whole towards a man who holds a crucial position in the football affairs of the club."

Mr Ajit Dutta's term comes to an end in 1983 but one must give the man credit for the fact that he is aware he has too much to handle. He is the Shift Control Engineer of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation's southern generating station and also is the head of his family's petrol business.

When I met him outside the club tent, he said "When Mr Dhiren Dey asked me to file my nomination papers, I was in a position to spare some time and this is precisely what I did after I was elected. In fact, I went personally to the houses of Panji and Bera to ask them to sign for Mohun Bagan. I also went to Kozikhode with the team for the Federation Cup." Mr Dutta recently received a promotion and a five-year extension in CE-SC and as he says, "I now have little time to spare. I am an engineering man and have to go to

work early and this is the primary reason why I cannot be on hand for morning training sessions."

At this stage it must be mentioned that the football secretary does come to the tent in the evenings, when he spends time with the players. "I am aware that I have been the target of some criticism for some time, on the grounds that I do not devote much time to affairs of the club. Actually, the pressure of my job is very great and I am seriously contemplating resigning from my club post before the completion of my term. I have the interest of the club at heart and that is why I might soon take this drastic step. This will ensure that a person with plenty of time on hand can take over from me."

Mohun Bagan will have to revitalise their organisational setup if they wish to bring home more trophies to the hallowed portals of their tent. They have in Mr Saiten Manna, their assistant football secretary, a magnetic personality, an experienced footballer himself and a perfect gentleman. Mr Manna declined to answer any questions. "Whenever I speak the Press misquotes me, so I have decided that I am going to keep my mouth shut," he said. "Mannada" as he is affectionately known to his friends and fans, does not really need to speak for he lets his work do the talking for him.

"The confidence which we had lost after our draw with Railway FC and our loss to East Bengal is in the process of being restored by Mannada," explained the Mohun Bagan skipper. Thapa is quite right and the influence of Mr Manna on the players has to be seen to be believed. This is the main reason why there is still hope that they can improve their position in the Calcutta League and find their lost touch in the IFA Shield tournament that will follow. Perhaps the clearest manifestation of this new spirit is the 5-0 scoresheet that Mohun Bagan returned in their match against Behala Youth on Tuesday 27 July.

While on the subject of training, it would not be out of place to mention another point. During these sessions, the two senior players, Shyam and Surajit assist their coach, and on occasion Gautam and Subrata also chip in. This in itself is a good policy but it could, in the long run, have unforeseen effects. The present team comprises a few very senior players, like the four already mentioned, and except for one or two others, is largely built up of very young members. There is, one could say, something of a "generation gap." What one is trying to drive home is the fact that the lesser lights, instead of gaining in confidence, are overawed in the matches when they are in the company of their elders. The Bagan juniors try their level best not to commit mistakes, and in their over-anxiety,

make blunders. If the younger players pursued their natural game and tried less hard to be perfect, the Mohun Bagan machine would certainly move more smoothly.

The biggest offender in the present League appears to be Amitava Mukherjee, despite his hat-trick against Behala Youth. Many critics have dubbed Amitava, who gave a fine account of himself both in the Federation Cup and in the Stafford Cup, a selfish player. However, Shankar Banerjee observes correctly, "One cannot call Amitava a selfish player. It is indirectly paying him a compliment if one does so. To be a selfish player, one really has to be very good. Amitava is good, but because of his inexperience at the top level he is not very consistent."

Mohun Bagan began their campaign in 1982 at the Stafford Cup in Bangalore. They were a relatively inexperienced side in this tournament and had not really developed much of an understanding between themselves. "Nevertheless," said their captain, "Our morale was very high. It took them a few matches to settle down and when they came up against the Iraqi Air Force team in the final, they gave a good account of themselves even though they lost. In the words of the Mohun Bagan coach, 'The foreigners were a better side, but we performed well. If we had played our League engagements in the same fashion no one would have matched us for skill, leave alone beaten us.' One must remember that at this stage all the players were fit and raring to go."

The injury problems started from the early matches and there were many occasions when Shankar Banerjee had only thirteen or fourteen players to choose from. "We were psyched against Railway FC. As you know, they have been giving us trouble over the last couple of years," said Shyam Thapa while taking a few minutes off from training. "The following day East Bengal also dropped a point and we had another golden opportunity to redeem ourselves. But alas we did not utilise it."

The team further jeopardised its position in the League table when they were held to a goalless draw by Wari. "We have given up hope of winning the League," Shankar Banerjee conceded. "My intention now is to raise the playing standard of the team before we embark on our campaign for the IFA Shield."

It is a pity that he feels this way. He should encourage his boys and convince them that they still have a chance to neutralise East Bengal's two-point advantage. The respected coach that he is, he should not be so openly pessimistic. No game or tournament is won till it is won.

Let us look back briefly from the present gloom to the time just after

Mohun Bagan won the Federation Cup and were crowned the "champion team" of the country. They were at their brilliant best in the second leg final against Mohammedan Sporting—"That was the best match we played so far this year," Shankar Banerjee said. "In peak form, we brushed aside the challenge of Mafatlal in the final."

It was a proud moment for Mohun Bagan and Shyam Thapa when the latter received the trophy on that rainy day. The celebrations soon followed. The victorious team was given its air passage back to Calcutta and received a tumultuous welcome at Dum Dum. It is learnt that a bonus of Rs 1,000 was given to each player and training resumed after five days. This is where the Mohun Bagan success story of 1982 ended, one hopes, temporarily.

The youngsters had turned out a memorable performance. Shyam Thapa, down with an upset stomach and fever for the most part of the Federation Cup, and Gautam Sarkar's ankle injury were the only real cause for worry at the time. That is why the team began as odds-on favourites to win the League.

Besides the tale of injuries, there are other contributory factors as well: the inability of the football secretary to devote himself more fully to the game, a rank bad luck, coupled with Subrata's relative failure to keep things under control, all combined to complete the tale of woe.

There is one more aspect to the story. It is well known that sportsmen the world over are superstitious by nature, though many people dismiss superstitions as grandma's tales. But has superstition affected the performance of India's premier football team in the Calcutta League so far? Before the matches against Railway FC and Wari, the Bagan players were kicking a ball around inside their tent. On both days, a bulb was broken and glass was shattered. For those who believe in omens, it did not look very promising. The cynic might dismiss these trivialities as 'childish' but then, one never knows.

One is reasonably sure that Mohun Bagan will soon pull it all together under the able guidance of Shankar Banerjee and Saiten Manna and recover its wounded pride. If Mr Apt Dutta's statements are any indication, a new football secretary may soon be expected to take charge and Francis D'Souza, who was their most effective player in the Federation Cup, must just be able to don his side's colours in the IFA Shield.

Redeem themselves, they almost certainly will. They have the undoubted talent of the present and a glorious tradition of the past from which to draw confidence and fighting spirit to bring about the Mohun Bagan revival.



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Ranjit Thapa: Victim of controversy

HARESH MUNWANI

THIRTYSEVEN is no age to play football considering that it is a rugged sport with heavy demands on the body and limbs. But then Ranjit Thapa is no ordinary player. Extremely fit and sturdy, the Gorkha half-back can still carry a team on his shoulders. If sheer talent were the criteria Thapa should have been among the Asiad probables. But for reasons other than soccer he has yielded his place to younger and lesser talented players.

As a boy, Ranjit had to choose between football and boxing. He says, "even though it was pretty good with the gloves, I felt there was a better scope and future in football."

At the tender age of 12, Ranjit joined the Army's Gorkha boys in Dehra Dun. In six years time, he began playing in the major tournaments in the country for the Gorkha Brigade. The tenacious boys of the Gorkha Brigade won the Durand Cup in 1966 and Ranjit because of his tremendous showing in the tournament was selected to assist the Services in the Nationals at Hyderabad.

In 1968 after having attained the rank of Havildar, Ranjit left the Army with a view to providing a financially secure life for his family. Ranjit joined Mafatlal Sports Club and has stayed with them ever since.

Ranjit played for India in the 1969 Merdeka Football Tournament at Kuala Lumpur and by 1974 was the vice captain of the Indian team. Moreover, he has led Maharashtra in the National championship. But the point remains that after playing 18 years of top level football in the country, Ranjit Thapa even today has the stamina and plays the pivotal role. Be it his club, State or country.

For all his contribution to the game, Thapa is a disillusioned man. He feels he never got his due. When it came to the crunch the men who were running the show, both at the national and the State level, let him down. It came as a rude shock that even after being chosen as the best player of this year's Federation Cup in Calicut, Thapa was not among the Asiad probables. "Apparently, I have learnt that my age has gone against me, which is a pity. Nobody is bothered about my game. All that matters is that I am so many years old. If they have doubts about my energy and stamina let them com-

pare me with any youngster.

Magbool Ahmed, coach of the Mafatlal team, was more emphatic. "The German coach, Detmer Pfeifer in charge of the Asiad trainees was insisting on Thapa's inclusion. He was surprised that a player of his calibre could be omitted. But the German's pleas fell on deaf ears."

Why had Thapa been treated in such a manner? Replies Magbool Ahmed. "It's very simple, ego clashes. It is shocking that two of the best halves in the country Thapa and Gautam Sarkar, don't find a place among the probables. I refuse to believe that the two halves chosen, Anthony Rebello from Goa and Pushparaj Kumar from Karnataka are better than Thapa and Sarkar. Any one who knows his football will tell you that it is a planned conspiracy to keep these players out. I think Thapa is suffering because Basha, one of the selectors, does not like him. It goes back to one of the foreign tours when Basha accompanied the team which included Thapa. On the eve of a match, Thapa ate a dozen bananas and this angered Basha. Ever since this—act of indiscipline—Basha has always harboured grudge against Thapa and has kept him away from the limelight."

"But that is not all. There is another reason of keeping Thapa out. If they select him, because of his seniority they would have to make him captain and this is something P. K. Banerjee and Basha, are not prepared to oblige. Banerjee and Basha have vested interests on this subject and Thapa would upset their calculation," remarked Magbool. "Those who are in charge of national football should be above all this. Unfortunately, some are not. Otherwise, how else can one accept the omission of Thapa and Sarkar. Or for that matter the best full-back in the country Subrata Bhattacharya."

Intriguingly enough, even though Ranjit Thapa has been around for the last 18 years, he has no Arjuna Award or the Shivaji Award presented by the State of Maharashtra. Remorsefully and reluctantly, Thapa explains, "That the authorities in Maharashtra insist on giving it to players who are currently in the State team. I can still play for Maharashtra and I am confident that I will

be fit and selected. But State wants to give the youngsters a chance. Besides the country does not need my services any longer. And yet, recently, Maharashtra has given the Shivaji Award to a player who played just one year—and that too decades ago. As for the Arjuna Award, the less said the better. I have never believed in being a sycophant. I feel if I deserve it, I should get it. Why should I beg for it?"

As a player Ranjit Thapa is well-known to students of the game. Opines Magbool Ahmed. "He must be the only player who is popular in all parts of the country. There may be some who are popular in Calcutta and some in Bangalore. But Thapa be it Delhi, Madras, Bombay or Calcutta is a big draw. Ranjit is a good schemer and probably the best shooter in the country. He can control the game. Another reason why Ranjit is so popular because he is a clean player. You will never see him committing intentional fouls. He will never get into fights or arguments. Messing around with the referee is not his way of playing."

What is the motivation for Thapa considering that most players of his age would rather retire and attend to business or family matters? Thapa pauses and continues. "I love football very much. One reason why I have stuck on is because my employers have looked after me rather well. I know I could have secured a coaching contract which could be very lucrative but I would rather be at the centre of everything. I have had offers from the Calcutta clubs. But one of the main considerations in refusing to join them is my contempt for the system. A player from some of these clubs does not give his best for the country. He is always trying to save his limbs from injury otherwise the lucrative contract with the clubs will not be forthcoming. In the final analysis the country loses. I don't blame the players. It is the system."

Thapa has had two major injuries. A fracture on his left wrist and another on his back. Otherwise he is a physical fitness fanatic. Informs Magbool Ahmed. "He practises two a and half hours everyday. He has never told me that he should be excused on the grounds of age or any other reason. In every game he gives his best. Loyalty amongst Gorkhas is a well-known virtue. One thing is certain. Ranjit will give his best for the team be it club, State or national level football. He is a dedicated and honest lover of the game. He knows his responsibilities and leads a good clean life. The man has football in his feet, the game comes naturally to him but we have some people in the country who are not willing to accept it. The anti-climax of the story is that once Ranjit Thapa hangs his boots he will not even get a free pass to enter the stadium."

Goals rationed

It was a bad week for the glamour teams. East Bengal dropped a point and Mohammedan Sporting did the same, playing to empty stands. Mohun Bagan won their only match of the week. **SUBHASH SARCAR, SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL and DEREK O'BRIEN report**

EAST BENGAL: One striking feature of this year's league championship has been that the so called small clubs have seldom failed to cash in on the weaknesses of their on paper superior rivals. As a result, a number of well contested matches could be witnessed during the current season with the junior teams offering stiff resistance and going on the offensive whenever opportunities came their way. And the 'higs' often found it difficult to keep their slates clean in spite of resorting to unfair means on a number of occasions.

As for East Bengal, things have

always threatened to prove disastrous with most of their star players seeming incredibly unsure with their feet and making the most unpardonable of mistakes at the most crucial moments. During their encounter with Eastern Railway, the home team, at the beginning, raised

Mihir Bose puts the ball past the Eastern Railway custodian

hopes that an improved display would be put up and when they took an early lead in the second minute of play through Amalraj, it seemed that the red-yellow outfit were determined to play an aggressive game. But strangely, all expectations were belied soon, as the East Bengal defence suddenly grew unreasonably shaky and vast areas on both the wings were often left unpoliced. Moreover, Biswajit Bose was frequently moving upfield without any apparent purpose. And it was through a gap created by him that Railways got their equaliser when Kalipada Halder, after running down the left flank, forwarded a measured pass to Rabin Mondal on the opposite wing and the latter had little difficulty to send the ball home.

That was the reply to Amalraj's opportunism in scoring the first goal for East Bengal which came in an almost similar fashion with a sudden gap being created by the Railway left back and the left linkman and the East Bengal skipper rushing in to turn it to account.



The equaliser for Railway, however, goaded East Bengal back into the game and the second half saw the home team make a number of quick and well-concerted raids on the East Bengal Railway citadel. But on two occasions the woodwork stood in the way when a shot by Tapan Das and a header by Arup Das rebounded off the right post.

But it did not take them long to get the match-winner. In the 13th minute of the second half Tapan Das found himself with the ball in an unmarked position and did not make any mistake to send it home. And East Bengal scraped through one more time. But a setback was there in store for them. In their next engagement they were held to a one all draw by their decade-old foe Calcutta Port Trust. However, what they really deserved was a defeat which could have taken place, but for ill luck for Port Trust who came close to scoring on quite a number of occasions and even once a beautiful grounder by right striker Monojit Das beat the custodian, but only to hit the far post. Off the rebound, Ashok Pal in a hurry, mistimed to place the ball properly.

In the 12th minute East Bengal got their only goal through a penalty, after Port Trust's Aloke Saha handled the ball inside the box in a desperate bid to thwart a dangerous looking Kartick Sert Sekhar Chakraborty move. Soon Port Trust went all out to compensate for the mistake and their forward, launched some frequent, powerful onslaughts on the rival citadel. But Pulak Biswas took it upon himself to police the entire East Bengal defence zone and proved an insuperable factor for the Port Trust attackers.

At this stage the game started hotting up fast with the East Bengal frontliners trying hard to regain the initiative and towards the end of the first half they got two good opportunities which could have proved useful but for Tapan Das who seemed to be miserably lacking in anticipation.

In the second half, the Port Trust players started putting even more pressure on the East Bengal defence which cracked before long, allowing Port Trust to gain complete command over the match. A number of good opportunities came their way. Though they proved abortive, the Port Trust frontliners never relented in their effort to get the equaliser. In the tenth minute Ashok Pal got an easy chance to score, after a Monojit Das shot had rebounded off the post to him. All that he had to do was to place the ball home, but he fumbled and the ball missed the mark.

As has been already pointed out in the previous reports on East Bengal's performances, lack of understanding among the half liners and the deep defenders has been one of the main reasons for East Bengal's poor showing this season, and that was once

again the case with the big club when Port Trust ultimately got the equaliser through Ashok Pal. As the Port Trust forwards were launching an attack and penetrating fast into the East Bengal defence zone Pulak Biswas, who had been playing well so far, did not rush forward to stop his opponents, expecting Biswasjit Bose to clear the ball. By the time he realised his mistake, Monojit Das, who was spearheading the attack, had centred the ball from the goal line and Ashok Pal put the ball past a diving Tapan Chakraborty, the East Bengal custodian.

Now it was turn for East Bengal to retaliate and tilt the balance in their favour once again. But sadly, never did they seem to have any such intention thereafter. Of course, they did make some attempts, but they were far too half hearted to cause any real danger for their 'interior' rivals.

On the Port Trust side, the Monojit Bose-Ashok Pal combination became a constant source of trouble for the East Bengal defenders. The two play-

ed with accurate passes and time and again positioned themselves in the most dangerous and opportune spots to launch lightning onslaughts on the rival citadel.

However, it was not quite an unexpected experience for East Bengal. In the last 12 years only twice have they been able to defeat Port Trust, who, on the other hand, have already avenged one of their two defeats. Here they got a gem of an opportunity to level terms. Only a little bit of imagination and somewhat finer finish would have done it for them.

MOHAMMEDAN S C The home team resumed their league engagements after a deferment the previous week in protest of police excesses on July 9. But the match against habes Barisha did not augur well as the black and whites failed to earn full points. Majid was lost without lamshed and the reinforcement of Latifuddin in the attack proved ineffective.

Why did Mohammedan Sporting draw and who are to blame for this?

Kartick Sert looks on as Shekhar Chakraborty tries to get the better of a Port defender



PHOTO - BHATTACHARYA



Mohammedan Sporting playing to empty stands

The home team was morally beaten the moment they took the field. How can a team perform without the chants of their supporters and members? The empty galleries had a tremendous psychological bearing on the team although the fanatics may have shouted from the ramparts.

Both the members and supporters may have a justified point with regard to the IFA League Subcommittee's indecision on the abandoned match with Railway I C and the police action on both members and ticket holders on the same day. But why should they encourage erring players? Many think that the suspension of Jamshed Nasiri and Pem Dorji was too harsh. When asked to comment on the team's performance Naveem said: "They did perform badly but how can they play well without the supporters? The empty stands did harm to them psychologically." It is gathered that the members are dissatisfied with the players in general and the club officials. This is another reason why they boycotted the match although some who had taken their seats in the member stands were dragged out.

The turn-out on the day was fairly large but not a soul dared to buy a ticket for fear of getting hammered up. Simultaneously Lal Bazar feared a flare up and so manned the area with more forces. Some dadas gave speeches in front of the gates which further swayed many into not buying tickets. This was followed up with a demonstration in protest against the July 9 incident. So not a single ticket was bought and the fanatics witnessed the lack-lustre match from the ramparts.

The way Mohammedan S C played was very frustrating. One should applaud the fighting quality of the

junior team and their holding of the giants. Most of the game was played on the midfield. But then Barisha had ample scope of turning the tables in their favour. Arun Manna got a centre on top of the box but he dilly-dallied in positioning himself and his shot at goal was foiled by an onrushing defender. Majid too exhibited his class—the only bit of it in the whole match—when he headed the ball to Somenath Banerjee precisely but the onrushing Barisha custodian Samir Dey plunged desperately on to the ball and saved the situation. After lemon time, Mohammedan S C had a slight edge with the inclusion of the old guard Latifuddin. Barisha defenders were kept busy for sometime and in the process Nirmal Chatterjee attempted a shot from a melee but the ball rebounded off the post for Debasis Mishra to head. Unfortunately, the latter's header also met with the same fate. The home team received another opportunity as a combined Latifuddin-Debasis Mishra move saw the ball passed to Majid, but the Barisha stopper Sukanta Banerjee's timely interception saved the day.

Even if Mohammedan S C performed shabbily as a team individual brilliance was also absent too. On the other hand Barisha's stoppers did well to hold the rival attack and medio Souren Dutta fed his forwards properly. They played well and deserved the point.

MOHUN BAGAN: It is not very often that we see a team, other than the 'Big Three' winning five matches on the trot in the Calcutta League. However, George Telegraph were a worthy exception. They had won five matches in a row before they took on Mohun Bagan who had earlier play-

ed a goalless draw against Wari. Many a follower of the game thought, and rightly so, that the maroon-and-green shirts would find it difficult to put it across Telegraph. This was not so, and it was a refreshing sight to see, arguably, their best performance.

Subrata Bhattacharya redeemed some of his prestige by putting up a good display, and with that old war-horse Gautam Sarkar at his brilliant best, Mohun Bagan on one of the few occasions this season played the brand of football which one knows them for.

"I am very happy with the performance of my boys today. It was all the more creditable because they went into the match under tremendous pressure. In our previous encounter, we dropped a point to Wari and came in for severe criticism. It is good to be back on the winning trail again," a slightly relieved Shankar Banerjee, coach of Mohun Bagan, said after the match.

The glamour team met with a bit of a setback in the seventh minute of the match when Shyam Thapa injured his leg and had to be replaced by Bikash Panji. The latter did a good job as a substitute and with Gautam Sarkar and Krishnendu Roy controlling the mid field, the home side looked very organised. Midway through the first half Bagan set up a wonderful opportunity to score. Gautam Sarkar latched on to a good Panji pass and found his fellow link man Krishnendu. The latter passed the ball to Amit Bagchi who in turn set it up for Krishanu Dev. Dev, from hand-shaking distance shot wide off the goalmouth.

Telegraph were lucky not to concede a goal in the first half. This was mainly due to erratic shooting on the part of the home team forwards. They had ample opportunities set up for them by their linkmen and with Subrata Bhattacharya and Dilip Pal overlapping well, Mohun Bagan were all over their opponent.

The maroon and green shirts also dominated the proceedings after lemon time and it was only a matter of time before the Telegraph citadel fell. A tireless Krishnendu Roy, floated the ball into the opponent's penalty box. Subrata Bhattacharya went up for the ball with the Telegraph custodian Rathin Datta, who could not control the ball properly and an opportunistic Amit Bagchi made no mistake.

Telegraph who had earlier collected 17 points from their 20 outings—not too bad a record—were completely at sea in this match. Their defence lacked confidence and it did not come as a surprise when Krishanu Dev scored his side's second goal 15 minutes from the end. He took an angular shot after outwitting rival stopper Nripen Pal—in the words of Shankar Banerjee—"It was a wonderful goal." Mohun Bagan did a good job.

The retreat

WHERE else could he be? A player who has disgraced himself by indulging in violence in the ground during an important league match and that too after conceding a goal to a lowly team naturally becomes a liability to the club authorities who find themselves left with no option but to take action against him like suspending him from the team for a certain period.

Thereafter, he is a no-man's-lander and for some time Pem Dorji was seen keeping the goal during the morning practice sessions of the Mohammedan Sporting football team. And even more striking, he was being given serious training by the captain of the side, Moidul Islam.

It is no use commenting on how this stormy petrel of Mohammedan Sporting fared in his new position. That is not too important. The only thing to take note of is the symbolic significance of the sight: the key defender of Mohammedan Sporting has retreated to the last line of defence.

vested interest

THE regulars have their own rules and conventions, which can not be broken under any circumstances. Of the thousands of spectators who frequent the three enclosed grounds of the maidan, there are certain people for whom going to one of them is a routine affair, especially when their own favourite teams are to take on one of their rivals in the running for the league title. They are the old familiar faces of the stands. They have their own groups, their own likes and dislikes and their own 'reserved seats'.

The other day, a newcomer to this fan world violated the 'law' by sitting in one of these

Maidan musings



veteran's seats. In no time the other ground birds took note of it and had a quick discussion among themselves. The next move was a straightforward warning to the offender: "Move away from that seat or you will have to face dire consequences before long." But the 'offender' was not that meek and submissive a man. He went on arguing for some time, but in vain. When he proved a really hard nut to crack, his opponents simply pushed him away and ordered him to seek a seat in the lower tiers of the stands. Majority is strength and the helplessness has to endure what cannot be cured.

Love and anger

Love is perhaps the strongest emotion in the human mind and mother

of any other moods which have little resemblance to it in nature—indifference, disappointment, anger and even hatred. When the beloved one behaves in an undesirable manner, lovers feel pangs of regret in their hearts. When dreams woven around them start falling apart, the realities of life grow too harsh to bear, life seems bleak, vacant and meaningless—a burden not worth carrying. But these are extreme cases. They occur only once in a while in a man's life. But situations are not rare either when a loved one fails to live up to expectations.

The result is disappointment—deep, depressing and disquieting. The sufferer's mind is taxed. But there are limits to one's endurance and when things deteriorate to an intolerable

pass, one knows one's calm and equanimity burst out in blind fits of irresponsible rage.

Sometimes his anger may egg him on to cause harm to his very beloved ones and sometimes his frustration may seek vent through acts which are literally suicidal.

This is particularly the case with those peculiar creatures on earth called football-lovers. There are stories about fans, disgusted at their favourite team's defeat, smashing their TV sets, an angry father knocking out his son's tooth for supporting the "wrong" side, a catholic nun trying to strangle a rival team supporter. These are all incidents unforgettably written in the history of the game.

Now, here is a story of a fan creating a scene in his favourite club ground on a quiet summer morning. After a series of poor performances, the East Bengal team were practising very sincerely.

As usual a number of soccer connoisseurs were hanging around watching the proceedings. Suddenly, when one of the players made a bad mistake a young man standing on the sidelines started abusing him bitterly, as if he had let the team down in a crucial match against a formidable rival team. Instantly, all the club players surrounded the man and a fist fight threatened to break out, with the offending supporter threatening to avenge his insult in the club's next league engagement. Suddenly it was discovered that the man was a member of the club itself. Now a few club officials intervened and the man was taken inside the tent, still shouting. "I love the club and that gives me the right to abuse its players and whoever harms its interest." Would you call it fanaticism or the poorest kind of emotional attachment?

NORTH ZONE CRICKET CAMPS

Standard quite good

HIMACHAL PRADESH, the beautiful fruit producing hill State of the north striving to become a full fledged member of the country's cricketing fraternity, was this summer given the task of organising the North Zone coaching camp for promising under-19 cricketers. Showing the zeal of a recruit who one day hopes to be sworn in as a "regular", the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association was naturally keen to give a good account of itself (it is now only an associate member of the Board of Control for Cricket in India).

One can imagine the disappointment of the organisers when they found that the camp, which according to the coach in charge, Gurcharan Singh, was a success organisationally as well as cricket-wise, came in for adverse notice by a letter writer in a leading provincial daily who preferred to stay anonymous.

The letter had complained against the board and lodging arrangements made for the young cricketers—allegations which have been expectedly denied. The official report submitted to the Board, one learns, is all praise for the standard of hospitality at the camp, which was also visited by a Board "observer".

Be that as it may. Any visit to a State like Himachal Pradesh is an enjoyable experience, particularly

for the young. The invigorating weather, the tree-covered hills and other sights are seldom forgotten by young minds. For once, the young cricketers at Chamba must have realised how rewarding it can be to excel at the game and be spotted for one's talent. The camp, away from energy sapping heat of the searing Northern plains, the Chamba camp was one more proof of the talent the North is brimming with. The most outstanding at Chamba was Atul Mohindia, a wicketkeeper batsman. Coaches Gurcharan Singh and Kishore Kumar were unanimous in their views that Mohindia is a cricketer who will one day not only play an outstanding role in North Zone cricket but also on the national scene. Here is the assessment of Gurcharan Singh, the Board's official coach for North Zone, among whose famous pupils are such players as Kirti Azad, Maninder Singh and Gursharan Singh. "I can't find the exact words to write how a lad of 16 can be so forceful and so good in defence. His technique cannot be faulted and in the near future he will be known as one of the classic batsmen not only in the North Zone but also in the entire country." However, Mohindia is known to be a little temperamental, and a long lecture was given to the Delhi boy to make him realise in his own interest, the benefit of remain-

ing "calm and cool on and off the field."

C P Singh, a middle-order batsman, is another under-19 placed in the "most outstanding" category in the official report to the Board. His choice of balls to punish, and the power he imparts to his shots, covers drives particularly, have come in for special mention. "He will be the most outstanding middle-order batsman in the zone in the coming years," says Gurcharan Singh.

The general standard of the trainees was quite good. They trained on the turf pitch at the Chogan Ground. However, there was no cement pitch which coaches find very helpful for they describe as "rectification work."

Not long ago Rohtak was unknown on the cricket map. Today this dusty Haryana town, about two hours' drive from the capital is developing into a cricket centre. Rohtak was once known only for its wrestlers, soldiers and the quality of its cattle. Now, it has also made its contribution to cricket. It is the home town of the evergreen Rajinder Goel, the highest wicket-taker in Indian cricket. The pitches at Vaish College and Vishwakarma High School have staged important cricket fixtures. It was at Vishwakarma School that Gurcharan Singh conducted the three week camp for North Zone's chosen under-15 cricketers shortly before he left for Chamba. Gurcharan was assisted by two other coaches—Vijay Jain and Gurmeet Singh, both are trained coaches.

If the coaches' opinion is to be believed, North Zone continues to have ample reserves of strength also at the under-15 level. From board and lodging to ground facilities, transport, medical cover, cricket gear and diet, officials of the Rohtak Cricket Association, led by secretary M K Bacha, organised everything to the satisfaction of the coaches. It was a hard grind for the boys. But when a man like Gurcharan Singh is in charge, it can't be otherwise. There are few task masters as dedicated as Gurcharan.

The Cricket Board, which foots the bill for these camps, expects the trainees to put in at least six hours' work each day. The coaching hours were 7 to 10 in the mornings and 4 to 7 in the afternoons. One can trust a man like Gurcharan to see that not a single minute is wasted.

Adjudged most outstanding at the camp was Delhi's Sanjay Sharma, a right hand bat and off-break bowler. This lad, who has been coached at the nets of the National Institute of Sports, Delhi, for the last five years, has been showing rapid improvement. Now that he has become stronger he packs much power in his game, batting, bowling or fielding. He is a promising prospect for the future.

A CORRESPONDENT

Coach Gurcharan Singh instructs a bowler at the Chamba camp for under-19s



Kerala kaleidoscope

Incentives

KERALA has always been in the forefront when it comes to giving encouragement to sportsmen. In the past too, it had launched many schemes for the welfare of sportsmen but the present incentive schemes offered to the athletes who emerge victorious in the forthcoming Asiad will go down in history as another shining example worth emulating. The Kerala Government has announced in its revised budget a reward of Rs 1 lakh each to all athletes and players from Kerala who win gold medals in the Asian Games. The winners of silver and bronze medal will receive Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000, respectively. In addition to this the Government also proposes to award Rs 5,000 each to all those selected to the coaching camps preceding the Asiad. The Finance Minister K M Mani, who announced the proposal in his revised budget said that Rs 5 lakh has been set apart in the budget for this. Referring to the important place that this State has secured in the field of sport in the country, Mr Mani said that, "we could stand foremost in this field by providing further incentives and training facilities to our athletes and players."

The Kerala Government also proposes to enhance the coverage of the sports council activities. The Government has also decided to extend financial assistance to the sports council for the manufacture of sports goods. Provision of stadia in all the twelve district headquarters, the taking over of the Trivandrum Flying Club and encouraging the creation of sports facilities in rural areas were some of the measures contemplated for the promotion of sports in the State. Kerala's potential medal winners include sprinters P T. Usha and K k Premachandran, and hurdler M D Valsamma.

The step to reward the athletes of the State who bring laurels to the country, calls for other States and the Centre too, to take up similar

incentive schemes to boost the morale of our sportsmen, who have for long remained a frustrated community.

Aquatics drowning

THE long standing differences, on the propriety of the central council decision suspending the voting rights of four district units—Trivandrum, Palghat, Trichur, Idukki, sparked off in the annual general body meeting of the Kerala Aquatic Association (KAA) to heated discussion and finally leading to an inevitable split.

The president who ruled out the question of withdrawing the decision was called upon by the majority to face a no confidence motion against him. The president and his supporters left the venue in a huff. The others remained to adopt the resolution and elected Mr P C George (Idukki) as their president and Mr T S Zackaria (Kottayam) as the Kerala Sports Council representative. The other faction elected Mr S Anantha Krishnan as president and T Sukumatan Nair as the KSC representative. However, the group led by P C George MLA claims to have the support of six district units and one corporate unit. Altogether, there are nine district units and five corporate units. The KAA is the long State association giving voting rights to corporate members, according to a member of the KSC. This is said to be against the guidelines of the AICS.

The split in the association had come at the wrong moment, which had prevented Kerala from participating in the 9th National Age Group Aquatic Championships at Kanpur. Had the Kerala team been at Kanpur there would have been a close tussle between the present holders Maharashtra, West Bengal and Kerala and—certainly a few more records would have fallen with Kerala's presence. Kerala boys and girls hold the existing records in many events and they were the overall champions in the boys section last year. The untimely split has left the dreams of many star swimmers in the State shattered and deprived many incentives, scholarships and stipends offered by the Government.

However, Mr P C George, the president of one faction, has alleged irregularities and misappropriation of funds by the rival faction and has requested the Chief Minister and the Sports Minister to conduct a vigilance enquiry. He said that many deserving swimmers were denied seats in Sports Divisions and Sports Hostels because of nepotism shown by the members of the rival faction who were holding official posts for a

pretty long time. He further alleged that the swimmers who attended the coaching camp, were given only Rs 8 per head as allowance against the State's sanction of Rs 15 per head. He also claimed that his association wanted to send the State team to Kanpur but the officials of the other faction left for Kanpur taking the tickets of swimmers with them. Mr George also wanted effective measures to ensure that the Government had real control over the function of the State Sports Council.

Meanwhile, Sports Minister K P Nooruddin said in the Assembly that the Government was looking into the circumstances leading to the non-participation of the Kerala team in the recently concluded Age Group Aquatic Meet in Kanpur.

Cycling punctured

THE Kerala Cycling Association has also split up. One faction is headed by N S Pillai and the other by G Karthikeyan, MLA (Congress-I). The split came up when the members questioned the existing committee on the widespread irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the association at the general body meeting.

Meanwhile the Trivandrum District Basketball Association was also on the verge of polarisation. But the timely intervention of the Kerala Basketball Association has patched up the differences and stopped an immediate split. However, the problem has not been resolved completely and a virtual split in the near future cannot be ruled out.

Politicians play havoc

MOST of the associations are controlled by politicians and their factions. They make these institutions a merry house for self-aggrandisement. The political horse trading which they have practised on the floors is also made to work in these associations. Meanwhile it is understood that the perks offered for these greedy officials are lucrative and thus the scramble for the positions. Whereas the allowances and perks offered to players are meagre and hardly make both ends meet.

It is time for the Government to take stringent measures and bring in new legislation, if necessary, to curb the practice of splitting up associations and forbid the lucrative perks offered to officials. The perks should be done away with and only one who is dedicated to the promotion of sports need be inducted into the associations. Otherwise, these bodies will only turn out to be a mockery rather than what they are really meant for.

M P. SURESH



PYONG YANG OPEN T T

India flatter to deceive

RAJAT KATHURIA

INDIA finishing tenth in a field of eleven in the women's section aptly sums up the plight of the present women's team without Indu Puri. Indu was unable to play in the team matches as she was nursing a sprained ankle. The mishap occurred at a time when the whole Indian team was under tremendous pressure and tension.

It seemed as if we would never reach Pyong Yang in time for the open table tennis tournament. We left Bombay for Hong Kong without Chinese visas and our tickets from Hong Kong to Peking and Pyong Yang were on request. We were unable to catch our scheduled flight to Peking from Hong Kong; instead we flew to Shanghai. The excess fare for this sector was borne by the players themselves. Finally, it was the Indian Embassy in China which catered to all our needs, was solely responsible for helping us reach our place of destination on the evening of the second. I am not blaming anyone for the difficulties which the players have had to experience, but merely emphasising that such things should not be repeated.

Within an hour of our arrival here, we had to play a match. As if this were not enough, Indu suffered an ankle injury and was rested for the team matches. Without Indu, the

women's team looked a helpless lot. The other players have been given a number of opportunities before but have repeatedly failed. So why not fall back on the older players who had been serving India well in the past? These tournaments are to provide international exposure to players with a certain purpose—to build a strong team for the forthcoming Asian Games in Delhi this November. It is, therefore, imperative that the selection for any such tournament be based strictly on merit.

However, coming to the Pyong Yang Open Championship, it was a failure for the organisers as only seven teams turned up. To make up Korea fielded four teams—both in the men's and the women's. This is in marked contrast to the enormous participation in the Seoul Open Championship with which this tournament is trying to compete.

In the men's section India started remarkably well, beating the second team from Korea 5-3. Playing for Korea in this tie were two national players who had played for their country in the recent Asian Table Tennis championship at Jakarta. This is India's first ever victory over the Koreans. Kamlesh and I won two matches each, while Chandrasekhar won the other one.

We also recorded easy victories over Poland and Egypt but eventually lost to Korea III 4-5 to finish sixth. S. Srinam performed very well for India, winning two of the three matches. In his third match, with the scores level at 4-4, Srinam failed to wrap up the tie for India as his nerves gave way at the crucial stage. A word about the umpiring. It left much to be desired and a number of decisions went against us. The fact that our Korean coach Pak U Gil



Srinam performed well

himself apologised to us speaks for itself.

As expected, the Chinese made a clean sweep of all the titles: the men's team, the women's team, men's singles, women's singles and all the doubles. Although this wasn't their National team, they were a cut above the rest and their superiority was never in doubt.

In the individual events, Chandrasekhar was beaten in four games by Korean Li Hyeon Il in the first round. Top seed Jo Yong Ho, also from Korea, beat V. Chandrasekhar in straight games, while Kamlesh Mehta was subdued by Mu U Chol, Korea I, defeated Korean Chang Hak in straight games in the first round but went down to Araki of Japan, a combination bat player, rather easily in the subsequent round. After two good victories in the team event, Srinam was a picture of confidence as he faced Li Gi Chol of Korea in the first round. Chol is very fast on his feet, as are all the Koreans, and he threatened to out-hit Srinam as he won the first game convincingly. Thereafter, Srinam steadied himself and played more on the Korean's extreme to win the match in five games. In the second round, Srinam overwhelmed an irritable Stefanov from Bulgaria in four games. It was indeed unfortunate that he ran into Chinese Fan Changmao in the pre-quarter final. He could do little in this match and lost in straight games.

All the women players, Indu Puri, Snigdha Mehta, Ixami Karamthi, Mona Lisa Barua and Rita Jain lost in the first round to the Koreans. The Korean women are very quick and much faster. The month-long joint training programme with the Koreans will do the women's team a world of good. A similar camp is being held for the men's team too, but, what remains to be seen is whether we can make good of this opportunity which has come our way.

Indu Puri—still indispensable



India capitalise on absentees

THE 10th Asian Amateur Boxing Championships were held at the Seoul Sports Complex Gymnasium (Samchul Stadium). This mammoth stadium (constructed in 1979, seating capacity 20 000) will be one of the major sites for the 1988 Olympics. A total of 74 boxers from Bangladesh, Brunei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand took part.

Korea won the team championship with 7 gold, one silver and 4 bronze medals. Thailand took the second position with two gold, four silver, three bronze while India was in third position with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Indian heavyweight Kaur Singh picked up gold medals in the Asian Boxing for two successive years. Mithab Singh, an Indian light-heavy, also achieved this honour striking golds in Tehran and Bangkok. Sung

Chul Kim (KOR) also bagged the middleweight gold in Bangkok (1973) and Yokohama (1975). Kaur Singh, a steady soldier of the Indian army, also claimed a gold in the recent King's Cup at Bangkok.

At the Samchul Stadium in Seoul, Kaur convincingly sent Thailand's Wichansan twice to the canvas and got a unanimous points verdict. Korean So Bae Won proved a tough opponent in the final. The home crowd lent added support along with his crashing uppercuts and swings. His long reach and endurance helped Kaur to defeat the speedy Korean. Indeed, it was a close contest between two mighty boxers of the Asian arena. Bae Won was more effective at close quarters. Kaur more efficient at long range where his one-two punch, the left lead followed immediately by the right cross to the jaw (George Carpentier's special punch) repeatedly pierced the Korean 'Head Hunter'. This

earned him vital points to defend the crown successfully.

Jasral Pradhan (25) used his skill and guts to claim the first gold in the lightweight class for India. Pradhan whipped Japan's Arai and entered the semi-final to conquer his Indonesian opponent Arawan. His piston-like straight left punches knocked out the Indonesian in the very first round. The knock-out puncher from Thailand Sawadi Wong stood in his way. Wong knocked out all his rivals including the Korean hero Lee in the early rounds. Wong's terrible left hook dropped Pradhan in the second round. Pradhan also put Wong on the rope by his favourite combination, a straight left followed by a confident right-cross. The final bell saved Wong from a knock out.

India's 27-year-old knock-out hero C. Machiah sent Wong Pok Cheany of Hong Kong to the hospital in the second round in the former's first outing. But he lost to Chung Beum of



The Indian team that won the Asian Amateur Boxing Championships

Korea on points after a bloody brawl and had to be satisfied with a silver medal. The 24-year-old Amaldas sent U Tsang of Hong Kong twice to the canvas and beat the Japanese Hatakeyama on a unanimous decision. Finally he lost to Klinchan of Thailand on a split points 3-2 decision and brought home a silver.

Promising featherweight M Xavier put up a very gutsy and spirited performance against the Korean Park Chul—the eventual gold medalist—in the semi final bout and earned a bronze. Another bronze winner Bansu Dhar also put up a gallant show against a much superior Korean Kim Ho who finally claimed the gold.

India's hope for another glittering gold medal was shattered when the Medical Commission did not allow light middleweight K B Chettur to box due to a deep scar on his left eye brow. Bantamweight G Mancharan was also unfit as he was suffering from high fever. B S Thapa was not present. Among the lighter men, the Indian C Narayan had caught the eye in the international arena in the early Seventies. And Thapa became hero for a couple of years. India could not produce a new champ and the lightweight fly Sanmugam was no exception at Seoul.

Korea fielded a team of 12 pugilists, one in each weight category and all of them reaped rich harvest. The Best Boxer's award went to Korean light welterweight Kim Tong Kil.

During the second AABC at Seoul

in 1965 the Korean team picked up a record number of eight gold medals.

In all they have collected 38 gold medals in the ten meets held so far at Bangkok, Seoul, Colombo, Manila, Tehran, Yokohama, Jakarta, Bombay and once again in Seoul. Iran has bagged 17 gold, Japan 15, Thailand 10, Pakistan 9 and the Indians have seven medals in their kitty.

Indian boxing, centred round pugilists from the Services has not shown vast improvement. The eleven-man team however, did well to score 24 points to share the team championship with the Koreans in the 9th AABC at Bombay but have since disappointed. Indian boys successfully met the hard hitting Mongolians, Iranians and Iraqis specially in heavier weight groups in earlier meets. None of these countries were present at the Seoul meet and India had a good chance to come home with more medals.

Three months are left for the Asiad and O P Bhardwaj, G S Sandhu and Viswakarma are putting the Indian team into shape. Before the Asiad the team will go to Brisbane to participate in the Commonwealth Games. The boxers have not yet had the services of an expert from an advanced country as has been done in the other disciplines. George Zeller, the Canadian Coach helped us to do miracles at Bombay even though he got four months' time to work. The Cuban Government sent Carlos Fuentes to help us out in December last. The project was Car-

los will stay up to the Asiad and the Indian team will undergo special coaching at Havana for three months. But the language problem compelled Carlos to abandon the project. The golden chance of acquiring valuable knowledge from the leading boxing nation of the world is now lost. But there was another piece of good news for the boys.

The Indian Amateur Boxing Federation requested the AIBA to spare the reputed coach Sam Hickman.

Hickman was expected on July 7. Brig D N Devine-Jones, the IABF secretary said, "We do not expect Hickman to work miracles but I am sure he will be able to brush up the technique and style of our pugilists to a great extent." Hickman, the permanent coach of Joe Frazier's Gym USA, came to Patiala to oblige. His comment "Indian boys are physically conditioned. They are as fit as my boys in the USA. But they lack boxing technique and tactics." Hickman has arrived. Let us hope that he will give the finishing touch, so that India can win many gold medals. Sardar Buta Singh said the other day in Bombay that he pinned his hopes on our boxers. The Indian Hawa Singh picked up two successive golds in the 1966 and '70 Games. P. B. Mall was awarded the 'best boxer' at the Jakarta Asiad. Now Pragati Maidan is the centre of attraction. Thousands are waiting eagerly for the big day.

ASIT BANERJEE

World parachute jumping on

THE International Aeronautical Federation (FAI) has awarded the 16th World Championships in parachute jumping to Czechoslovakia. The venue is the airfield of Svazarm—ruling body of technical sports in Czechoslovakia—at Lucenec, Central Slovakia. The airfield of the local Aeroklub is situated in a region with relatively stable climatic conditions and naturally meets all the requirements of the FAI for the competition. There are sandy landing areas for simultaneous landings in men's and women's events.

During the 14-day championships, which is currently on, the programme is identical to the one held last in Bulgaria, but the centre of the target areas has a diameter of 5 cm, instead of the previous 10 cm circle. One highlight is that the judges and journalists have the latest technical equipment at their disposal, including a videorecording system, to better judge the figures. Landing precision are measured electronically.

Among the 30 participating countries where this sport has reached

the highest performance standards are the USSR, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, the United States, Canada, France, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Cuba and China. Therefore the participation made it all the more necessary to prepare the best conditions for the entrants and the accompanying technical personnel. The airfield is extremely well equipped to begin with but the organisers still decided to make extensive improvements and reconstructions. The airfield area resurfaced a new central building constructed and the existing facilities and hangars have been renovated. An asphalt-surfaced runway, 800 metres long and 30 metres wide, making possible take-offs and landings also in the rain, has already been completed.

Instead of large army tents usually used by competing teams at such events, the organisers at Lucenec have erected around the 100-metre landing circle 40 accommodation units, with space for parachutes and gear. There is a TV monitor in each unit, so that all participants will be

able to follow not only the precision landings of their rivals but also the jumps from an altitude of 2,000 metres and the complexes of acrobatic figures during the free fall. A section of the hangar has been converted into a mess hall, another into an area of refreshment stands and shops.

On the opening day of the championships, a large international air show was given, with demonstration flights and jumps by the best Svazarm pilots and parachutists, Czechoslovak Air Force pilots, and foreign airmen.

Also the town of Lucenec has been spruced up for the event. The square with a fountain has also been reconstructed and a new department store is nearing completion. A new bus station has been built and the Youth Home for the participants has been modernised.

Lucenec has pledged to provide the best conditions with the spirit of the motto of the event, "Through sport for peace, friendship and co-operation between the nations of the world."

"I KNOW I cried after Medinah but I also know that it made a better man of me. I learned from it and I am sure Nick will, too. He is a strong aggressive player. He had six birdies yesterday. That is quite something." —Golf millionaire Tom Watson after beating South African Nick Price by a stroke for the Open Golf Championship at Troon

I AM not concerned by the number of strokes I lead. Golf is a challenge against yourself. I am not going to change my strategy but will continue to see how low I can score. American Bobby Clampett after making a course record during the Open Golf Championship at Royal Troon

"I HAVE set myself up as a target and it now means that I have to try to keep winning. If I don't then what I did in Oslo will soon be forgotten." —David Moorcroft who set the world 5,000 metre record in Oslo

"WHEN Kevin Beattie received medical advice to retire we understood the specialist to mean he should cease to play football at a professional level or he would risk permanent damage to his right knee." —Patrick Cobbold, the Ipswich manager regarding Beattie's misleading testimonial about retiring from the club. (*The Daily Telegraph*)

"PEOPLE are so used to one day cricket now. But they must remember that this is different and you don't see balls flying to the bound any every couple of seconds." —England captain Bob Willis on not declaring earlier against India

"I WOULD be reluctant to lose Peter but our financial situation is such that we are having to give the offer serious consideration. I have put the position to Peter and he is

thinking it over." —Leeds United manager Eddie Gray's reaction when Spain's Real Betis asked England winger Peter Barnes to join them

"It appeared at first to be an error but it wasn't as was made clear by the surprises brought about by such teams as Algeria and Cameroon. I think Colombia would find it very difficult to stage the 1986 finals with the increased number of teams." —Raimundo Saporta, the head of the twelfth World Cup in Spain, claims. (*The Daily Telegraph*)

"FOR a country the size of ours and with such a small number of players to choose from to get this far is a tremendous achievement. I can't praise too highly the effort, organisation and fitness of the players. To be beaten by France was no dishonour." —Billy Bingham, the North Ireland manager

"We both gave everything we had and that is why I like playing McEnroe. He brings out the best in me."



because he fights for every ball." Jimmy Connors after dethroning the Wimbledon singles champion. (*The Daily Telegraph*)

"THERE does not seem to be any pride among the majority of athletes. They don't know

SPORT QUOTE

how to enjoy themselves, they want to take a lot but they don't want to give anything in return." —Mary Peters, the Munich Olympic pentathlon gold medalist

"We appreciate spectators' enthusiasm and involvement but in the interest of players, umpires and fellow spectators we must request cooperation in not invading the field of play at any time. To be fair to all, we must issue a warning that if this cooperation is not forthcoming, you will force the club to take the severest action." Lancashire County chairman Cedric Rhodes. (*The Daily Telegraph*)

"My ambition is to become world champion and I put aside a couple of minutes every day to feed my subconscious that I will be champion." —Roy Cumbs, the British middleweight champion, acting as sparring partner to John Conteh

"The pitch wasn't helping pace and it wasn't helping spin. So I looked at Rad and I looked at Embury (Radley and Embury) and said, 'What do you think? Should I have a go?'" —Mike Gatting of Middlesex, who got the nod from his two colleagues and took five Nottingham's scalps for just 34. (*The Guardian*)

"MR JIMMY HILL is acting irresponsibly. We are very concerned primarily for the players whom we believe have been misled." —Football Association secretary Ted Croker, criticising Hill, the South African tour consultant. (*The Guardian*)

"If the Football League allows this to happen it would be setting a very dangerous precedent." —Kelly Gilbery writes to League secretary Graham Kelly pointing out that Wolves' receivership may go into liquidation. (*The Guardian*)

"THE Football Association employ a coaching staff of eleven, with the scheme costing £800,000 a year. Clearly more changes will follow and the FA will make a more detailed announcement soon." —Stephen Berkeley of *The Guardian*

"I AM very flattered and extremely proud and honoured. As a child coming to the British Open was one of my greatest dreams, playing Troon and St Andrews. This is something I know my father would have dearly loved. Golf millionaire Arnold Palmer said this when he was made the honorary life member of Royal Troon Club. (*The Guardian*)

"HOW can you take Hoff Dremmler, who gets stuck into the game and does all the dirty work when others tail in the 'midfield'?" —German player Stielike commenting on manager Jupp Heynckes's tactics in the final against Italy. Regarding Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Stielike says, "He realised himself he could not produce the performance needed. Why didn't he have the courage to have himself taken off sooner? We played with only 10 men for four or five matches while five players sat on the bench or in the stands." (*The Guardian*)

Black belt beauty

Of the four Indian women who have the rare distinction of winning a black belt in the martial art of Judo, **Khoisnam Sabitri Chanu** of Manipur is one. She was recently awarded the black belt by Kodokan University of Japan through the Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Patiala.

Smart and pretty Sabitri was born in Imphal on July 3, 1956. Though she had seen judo and karate demonstrations from a very young age, she was not very interested in it until 1977 when she was greatly impressed by a judo demonstration. She began picking up the rudimentaries of this sport from those who used to practise in the Judo and Karate Academy in the Old Place compounds of Imphal.

Seeing her practising K Chandra, a black belt holder himself, noticed her talent and immediately took her under his tutelage. Incidentally, K Chandra is the founder of the Judo and Karate Academy, known in short as JUKA. Sabitri soon turned out to be a force to reckon with in judo. In her very first performance in the All Manipur Judo Championship in October 1980, she secured the first place in the lightweight category of 40 to 45 Kgs. In the karate championship she was placed third but she did not accept the prize due to alleged partiality by the referee.

Representing Manipur, she bagged the second place in the All India Womens Judo Championship, held in New Delhi in November 1980.

For her superb performance, Sabitri, an inch short of five feet, was selected for a 10 month course in judo in the Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports. She joined the Institute in July 1981 and successfully completed the course in April this year. For her outstanding performance during the course she was awarded the black belt. The other three women who have been awarded the black belt so far are Manju Kam (Punjab), Leelamma (Karnataka) and Bertha D Souza (Gujarat).

Presently in the final year of B.A. Sabitri's achievements in other fields have been no less impressive. With her father serving in the Special Security Bureau she took part in the All India Divisional Special Security Bureau Shooting Competition for three consecutive years from 1976 to 1978. Amongst the women she stood first in light machine gun and rifle firing in all the three years.

As a cadet of the Senior Girls Army Wing of the National Cadet Corps she excelled in the Basic Mountaineering Course, Advance Leadership Course and Basic Sum-



mer Course at various places

Being an active social worker, she has participated in various NSS camps, National Integration Camps and youth projects.

Despite her achievements, she regrets that she has not been able to get a suitable job in the Manipur Government although offers have been pouring in from many other parts of the country. She feels bad about the fact that her State is not even able to provide proper facilities to sportswomen. She had to struggle hard to get to the top. All her savings were spent up in attending coaching camps.

Coming of an orthodox family Sabitri did not get any encouragement from her family members until she secured a diploma from the NIS. Although her four brothers and three sisters are keen sportsmen and sportswomen they are not much interested in judo and karate.

When asked as to how she came into judo she replied with a smile that it had helped her to develop her mental faculties and physical ability and instilled in her tremendous amount of self confidence. She strongly feels that judo should be learnt and encouraged more as a sport than as a means of self defence.

Sabitri practises judo every morning for two hours and another two hours in the evening are spent in yoga and meditation.

When asked about her plans to get married she returned a bashful smile and an evasive reply that once she got married she would have to quit judo for ever.

Gymnastics coach speaks

“WOMEN'S gymnastics should be taken more seriously. The statement was made by none other than the famous gymnast **Larisa Latynina** who in the quarter century of her career won nine gold medals in the Olympic Games and eight in the World Championships.

Today she is the senior coach of the Soviet Women's gymnastics team. She is 47, and has a two-year-old grandson. Even at this age she has maintained her energy, charm, slender build, and smart appearance obviously due to the favour-

able influence of gymnastics. Latynina makes no secret of the fact that the most thrilling and memorable moments in her life are connected with sports.

I've known the joy of not only individual victories, but also of coaching successes,” she said, adding, “As the senior coach, I've led the women's select of our country out onto the competitive platform in three Olympic tournaments and in two World Championships. There have been amazing performers, like Natalia Kuchinskaya, Olga Karasyova, Zinaida Voronina, Larisa Petrik, Lyubov Burda, Lyudmila Turishcheva—it's impossible to name them all. They were the ones who created present day gymnastics, thought up new parts and polished the artistry of execution to perfection. As for complicated routines, Olga Korbut was the pioneer who presented the sport arenas with simply fantastic parts and liaison movements.”

Latynina believes that this trend for extremely complicated, high risk gymnastics was the reason for it being predominantly a sport for the very very young today. The idea that a ceiling exists for difficult parts in gymnastics has been refuted by 11 and 12 year old performers. The world now sees 14 and 15 year old girls emerging triumphant in the Olympic Games and World Championships. Larisa Latynina disclosed the secret of this swift ascent. The training methods have changed considerably. Complicated acrobatics are being encouraged among the girls. A single routine now includes a number of difficult parts—say, two simultaneous somersaults and two Tsukahara versions. But what pleased me is that problems of choreography, composition and artistic impression continue to be the main ones for Soviet coaches, just like in my day. Community and high standards of artistry have always been inherent in Soviet women gymnasts, and that is one of the main reasons for their achievements.

There is an important question asked by Liliya Kovatova. What do you believe is the main problem in women's gymnastics?

It's problem evoked by the rejuvenation of gymnastics. Naturally, girls can win in major tournaments at the age of 14 but they can really do creative work when they are a bit older. Women's gymnastics should be feminine. At any rate, I don't think it's right to allow girls younger than 15 to compete in the European and World Championships, and the Olympic Games. As a specialist, my wish is that both Soviet and foreign coaches make more extensive use of simulators which make the execution of parts easier and safer. Gymnasts should be groomed first in properly performed basic parts and only later in perfection of execution.”

News round-up

CRPF win police aquatics

TRIVANDRUM C R P F retained the championship in the five day 31st All India Police Aquatic Meet held at the Water Works Swimming Pool. This is the sixth consecutive time that CRPF won the championship. C R P F scored 249 points followed by B S F (174) and Uttar Pradesh (57) for the second and third places respectively. Over 400 swimmers representing 13 teams took part in the meet. The swimming competitions were inaugurated by the Kerala Chief Minister K Karunakaran.

Dharmipal Tokas of B S F who set four new meet records won the individual championship securing 56 points. Altogether 11 new records, four of them bettering national marks were set. The first national record being sunk by Inspector Dharmipal Tokas of B S F. He returned in a timing of 4 m 36.5 secs. in 400 m freestyle event and cut 1.10th of a second off the national timing set by Anil Gunju in 1978. Next came the turn of T J Jacob of C R P F who bettered his own police meet and national timings by 0.5 secs. and 1.2 secs. respectively when he won the 200 m butterfly event, his previous, in 2 m 21.6 secs. Jacob again improved his own record and national timing in 200 m individual medley returning in a time of 2 m 28 secs., his earlier record being 2 m 28.6 secs. The fourth national record fell in the name of C R P F's Circle Inspector Thoubé Singh in 200 m breaststroke when he improved his own time of 2 m 40.3 secs. to 2 m 39.5 secs.

Poothira Sharma of C R P F scoring 378.60 points claimed the first place in High Board diving. The divers of CRPF won both the first and second positions in Spring Board diving. Inspector Mahadev Singh Shukhwant took the first place with a tally of 386.40 points. Shaka Singh came second with 364.80 points.

Border Security Force dethroned holders C R P F 87 and won the Water Polo tournament conducted along with the meet. In the semi-final C R P F beat Kerala and B S F brushed aside West Bengal. In the losers' final, West Bengal trounced Kerala 8-5 and won the third place.

Meanwhile, the C R P F, led by the 'Indian Zatopek' Harichand, won the 14.5 km cross country championship. Out of the 110 runners from 12 teams 106 finished the race. The team championship was annexed in the event by the C R P F men who secured the minimum

aggregate of 54 points. B S F finished second (76 pts). Mrs Vayalar Ravi, wife of Kerala Home Minister distributed the prizes.

M P SURESH

Records galore

PANAJI The third Junior National Powerlifting Championships was successfully organised by Goa, Daman and Diu Weightlifting Association at the Kala Academy Theatre, Panaji, Goa recently. As many as 128 strong young powerlifters from 19 states, participated in the championships. The championships started with the 52 kg class and out of 23 competitors Devender Singh of Bihar, Swapnil Chowdhury of Bengal and Siddhar Mukherjee (Tripura) fought each other to earn gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. Only one national mark was created in this class and this was by Hiralal Ram of Gujarat in the bench press (107.5 kg). In the 56 kg class though there was no new national mark there was keen competition among G. Ananthaiah (Maharashtra), N. Gowda (Karnataka) and S. P. Agnihotri (Delhi) for achieving gold, silver and bronze medals respectively with a difference of only 2.5 kg in total. In the 60 kg class Sivaprasad G. (Kerala) set up two new national marks in the squat and total and won the gold. Dwaipayan Chakraborty, the Bengal team captain, set up two new national marks in the 60 kg class in squat and total. The 217.5 kg in squat is a new senior national mark. Taranath Mendan (Maharashtra) set up a new national mark in the dead lift (220 kg) defeating his nearest rival M. Nagaraj (Andhra Pradesh). Though P. Venkataswami (Andhra Pradesh) took the fifth position he was still able to break the bench

press mark by lifting 117.5 kg. In 75 kg class P. Damodar (Andhra Pradesh) broke the senior national mark of Uma Kant (Delhi) by 10 kg besides his record total of 545 kg to win the gold. D. Solomon Raju of Andhra Pradesh won the gold medal in 82.5 kg class followed by Ananda and Chandrasekher of Karnataka. There was only one new national mark (192.5 kg) in squat in the 90 kg class by Jeevan Kumar (Karnataka) who won the gold. Two new national marks (210 kg in squat and 535 kg in total) were set up by S. B. Ghadigaunkar of Maharashtra who won the gold in the 100 kg class. Jagdish Raj (J & K) broke all the four existing national marks i.e., squat (225 kg), bench press (127.5 kg), deadlift (212.5 kg) and total to earn a reputation as a champion powerlifter in the 110 kg class. He was followed by Radhakrishnan (Kerala) and Rajender Singh (Delhi). Goutam Banerjee of Bengal made a total of 420 kg and easily defeated his rival Mathew Polson (Kerala) by 30 kg class.

Bengal was the only state to produce a young student powerlifter Subhendu Bhattacharjee. He appeared in this class with a bodyweight of 145.7 kg. Being trained for few months he made a total of 300 kg.

In total 22 new national marks were recorded in the said championships. On the concluding day, Shri Harish N. P. Zantye, Honourable Minister for Education, Goa, Daman and Diu presented the Championship Trophy to Bengal team, first with 77 points followed by Maharashtra with 64 points and Kerala with 56 points. Devendar Singh of Bihar was adjudged Junior Strongman of India i.e., Champion of Champions.

MANOJIT BOSE



NO ALLIGATORS INSIDE! Members of the Special Organising Committee for the Asian Games seen inspecting the stands being raised on the fringe of Ramgarh Lake, venue of the rowing events for the coming Asiad.

More don'ts than dos

Laws keep changing from time to time. Unlike many other games, laws of cricket are unambiguous. Apart from the laws, the game is governed by certain conventions also which are as much in vogue as the laws. But cricket is no longer a mere sport. It is an industry and players are therefore, much more professional and assertive in their attitude towards the game than they ought to be. Poor umpires are more on the receiving end now than they were a decade

level out a mistake by deliberately making another. Two wrongs can never make one right and for an umpire to err in this manner must result in the players losing confidence in him. All umpires are human beings, to err is human and no umpire should allow his concentration and attention to be disturbed by undue worry over an unfortunate error.

- 1 Do not stick to a decision which is wrong. It is specially stated in the laws that an umpire can change a decision,

will be lost to keep the men in white coats in good humour. It will always be beneficial to win the umpire's sympathy and good will.

There are many amusing stories about umpires and players. The story of Jack Hearn, a former England Test cricketer, is worth narrating.

Jack was nervous as a colt, when he waited in the pavilion to make his debut for Middlesex in the County Championship. As he looked pale, tense with pads on and bat by his side, a professional went up to him and dropped a 'valuable' hint for him. That piece of advice impressed the youngster. "Now," said the professional, "when you go to the wicket, try and be pleasant to the umpires. Don't hesitate to say 'Good morning'."

Jack Hearn walked in and asked the umpires to give him 'guard.' While the umpire was performing his duty, Jack gave him a grin, nodded and said "Good morning, how do you do?" "Excellent", replied the umpire adding "Three more decisions and I'll have given a hundred batsmen out this season."

There is another amusing story. This time the player had the last laugh. A batsman, known for tomfoolery, 'took the field' completely out of the sails of one umpire, who claimed to know all about umpiring.

The batsman walked in and was

instantaneously ready to play. The umpire intervened and asked the batsman "I say, don't you want guard?" The batsman appeared bewildered, then disappointed, and replied "No, thank you. I played in this match last year and took it then!"

One of the celebrated and controversial Test stars of India was summoned by Vizzy to lead UP in the Ranji Trophy. In a match against Rajasthan, a youngster was bowling his heart out and

appeal and up went the umpire's finger. Here are some problems.

Q Will the wicket be considered as down, if a bail, while falling, lodges between two stumps?

A Yes. According to laws, the wicket has been broken and the batsman is deemed as out.

Q During a lunch break it is realised by the fielding side that the batsman had smacked the last ball on which they failed to appeal. Can the fielding side appeal after lunch before the com-



or two ago.

- There are much more "don'ts" than "dos" to be followed by umpires. Some of the important don'ts suggested by R. S. Renkar, former secretary of the MCC, are:
 - 1 Do not be prompted by the behaviour of the players to indicate disapproval by any gesture, even in the most extreme cases.
 - 2 Do not be influenced by the volume and confidence of an appeal and equally important, do not disregard even a half-hearted appeal.
 - 3 Do not attempt to

provided he does so immediately.

- 5 Do not hesitate to consult a colleague if he is in a better position to observe the essential points of an incident.
- 6 It is a characteristic of the best umpires to pause over their decisions, but, having made up their mind, they give their answers definitely and firmly.

Players aware of their financial gains based on their performance, try to keep the men in white coats in good humour. The consensus is that nothing



beat one of Rajasthan's early batsmen and appealed.

The celebrated skipper went rushing to the youngster and scolded him for making such a foolish appeal. "Please, for God's sake, appeal only when necessary," he advised his team-mate.

The umpire took notice of it. Vijay Manjrekar was at his dazzling best when he was wrapped on the pads by a ball, which was going away. But the celebrated skipper made a vociferous

menace of the first ball?

A No. Such an appeal could have been entertained if the time had not been called.

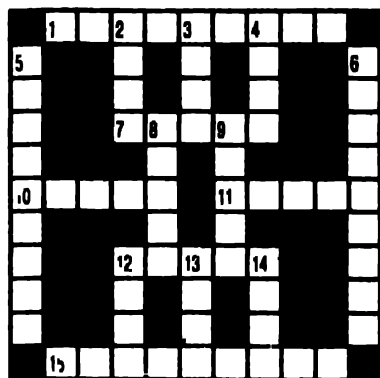
Q Five minutes before the scheduled resumption of play, the batting side captain declares the innings closed. When will the game resume?

A Ten minutes of change over, including seven minutes' rolling will have to be provided to the opposite side. That means the match will resume five minutes after the scheduled start.

Crossword

MUDAR

158



CROSS

- 1 Another young female prodigy in tennis world ends in a male issue (1)
- 2 Sibba Row former English cricketer and an Indian scientist have something to share (5)
- 3 A New Zealand cricketer begins with a barracking (5)
- 4 A Villa but not Ricardo (5)
- 5 Miss Turnbull of the tennis world (5)
- 6 Boycott partnered him while setting up a new batting record for Yorkshire for the last wicket (9)

DOWN

- 7 This Singh was a great bowler for India years ago (4)
- 8 The youngest competitor to break a world record in any sport comes up (4)
- 9 This troupe is the latter part of a football team for which Botham plays. The club's first four alphabets are? (4)
- 10 One of the very few players to have hit centuries at Lord's in a Test on different overseas trips (4,5)
- 11 John McEnroe and this person are going to produce a musical record on Wimbledon (5, 4)
- 12 Apart from being known as Rags, Randall is also known as? (5)
- 13 A Test cricketer has a conflict in between (1, 4)
- 14 A ball that cannot be easily reached by the batsman (4)
- 15 A game of - pins (4)
- 16 These are also sometimes used for races through water (4)

Excellent 16—15, Good 14—13, Fair 12—11.

Question box

Subhash Matra, Prasannjit Matra, Keen-jhar

Q When, where and against whom did Gavaskar make his Test debut and how many runs did he make in both the innings of that Test match?

A Gavaskar made his Test debut in the second Test against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain in 1970-71, when he made 65 and 67 not out

Partha Pratim Pal, Calcutta

Q Could you please give me the West Indies bowling figures against England in the second innings of the third Test at Bridgetown in 1981?

A Roberts 20-6-42-1, Holding 19-6-46-2, Croft 19-1-65-3, Garner 16-2-6-39-2 and Richards 17-6-24-2.

Sharmila Guha, Ballyan North

Q Is 274 by Zaheer Abbas his highest score in Tests?

A Yes

Q Who partnered Gavaskar in his first Test appearance in 1970-71?

A Ashok Mankad

Q What is the highest score by an Indian nightwatchman in a Test?

A 101 not out by S M H Kirmani in the sixth Test against Australia at Bombay in 1979-80

Imdadullah Ansari, Qazipura

Q When, where and against whom did Botham of England start his Test career?

A In the third Test against Australia at Nottingham in 1977

Sushil Jain, Ranchi

Q Which of the following are counted as first-class cricket matches— One-day internationals, Wills Trophy and the Deodhar Trophy

A None

Vinod B, Shimoga

Q What is the cost of a Test cricket ball?

A Anything up to Rs 100

Premod Malshe, Bombay

Q Please give me the scorecard of New Zealand when she was dismissed for 26 in the second innings against England

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 157

G I L L H H A R D
E O I

I N L
S L A M D L A K E

at Auckland in 1954-55

A. B. Sutcliffe—b Wardle 11, J G Leggat—c Hutton b Tyson 1, M B Roore—b Tyson 0, J R Reid—b Statham 1, S N McGregor—c May b Appleyard 1, G O Rabone—(Capt) lbw Statham 7, H B Cave—c Graveney b Appleyard 5, A R Macgibbon—lbw Appleyard 0, A Colquhoun—c Graveney b Appleyard 0, A M Moor—not out 0, J A Hayes—b Statham 0 Total 26
Javed Akhtar, Saharanpur

Q What is B S Bedi's highest score in first-class cricket?

A. Sixty one in the Ranji Trophy as well as in the County Cricket Championship in England. He made 61 against Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar in 1970-71 and for Northamptonshire versus Gloucestershire in 1974 at Northampton

Quiz

Rajjit Gh.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the only instance of brothers playing on the losing side in a World Cup soccer final?
- 2 Who is the only Dane to be crowned the European Footballer of the Year?
- 3 And who is the only Czech to get the honour?
- 4 How many players have won the European Footballer of the Year award more than once?
- 5 Which weekly names the European Footballer of the Year and gives him the Golden Ball award?
- 6 What is the Golden Boot? Who awards it?
- 7 Who won the Golden Boot last year?
- 8 Which international football star had three of his four cartilages removed when he was seventeen?
- 9 Which player of Italy's 1982 World Cup winning team was born on All Fools Day?
- 10 In Spain a trophy named after a legendary player, is annually awarded to the best player in that position. What is it?

ANSWERS

- 1 Famous international goalkeeper Zamora trophy named after Spain's
- 2 Giancarlo Antognoni
- 3 Paolo Rossi
- 4 Georgi Stankov (Bulgaria)
- 5 European Championship
- 6 Football to the highest scorer in the
- 7 It is the trophy awarded by France
- 8 France Football
- 9 (1980, 1981)
- 10 and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge
- 1 (1974) Kevin Keegan (1978, 1979)
- 2 (1976) Johan Cruyff (1971, 1973)
- 3 (1959) Franz Beckenbauer (1972)
- 4 Five Alfredo Di Stefano (1957)
- 3 Josef Masopust (1962)
- 2 Allan Simonsen (1977)
- 1 Argentina in 1978
- 1 W Van der Kerkhof and R Van der Kerkhof played for Holland against

Q What was Kapil Dev's score in the second innings of the fourth Test against England at The Oval in 1979?

A Zero

A At the end of the England-Sri Lanka Test series the following bowlers had captured 100 or more wickets in Tests for England F S Trueman (307), D L Underwood (289) J B Statham (252), R G D Willis (242), A V Bedser (236), I T Botham (219) J A Snow (202), J C Laker (193) S F Barnes (189) G A R Lock (174) M W Tate (155) F J Titmus (153) H Venty (144) C M Old (143), A W Greig (141) E Bailey (132) W Rhodes (127) D A Allen (122), R Illingworth (122), J Briggs (118), G Arnold (115) G A A Lohmann (112) D V P Wright (108), R Peel (102), J H Wardlaw (102), and C Blythe (100)

A C H Lloyd of West Indies was Bedi's first victim. B R Knight of England was Chandrasekhar's first victim. G Millman of England was Prasanna's first victim while G T Dowling of New Zealand was Venkatraghavan's first victim in Tests.

Q What has been the total score, average and the highest score of Alvin Kalicharran in Tests?

A 4,399 runs, with 187 as his highest and with 44.43 as the average

Against the heart game West led ♠ K and East met the problem that I described earlier. There was of course an unethical way of dealing with it. He could brood for some while before producing the two! This sort of thing doesn't go down too well in most schools. East, a reputable player, followed smoothly with the two and declarer took his A's. Two rounds of trumps followed then South led a spade from hand to give West a critical decision. To duck (as the cards lie) would reduce declarer losers to three. In practice West went up with ♠ A and, with a fatalistic air, cashed ♠ Q. The result of

This week's quiz At love all South holds ♠ Q 7, ♥ A Q 6 5 3 ♦ K 8 6 4 2, ♣ 9 West deals and opens one diamond, North overcalls with one spade and East bids two clubs. What should South bid?

1 P = K4, P = Q83,	2 P = Q4, P = Q4
3 Q2 = Q83, P = P,	4 Q2 = P, P = Q4
5 K2 = K23, B = K23,	6 P = K44, P = K23
7 K2 = B3 K2 = Q2,	8 P = K5, B = K2
9 B = Q3, B = B,	10 Q = B, K2 = B3
11 B = B4, P = K3,	12 O = O = O, B = K2
13 Q2 = K3, P = B4	

Solution to No 1185 (Kash) (4R3/6B1/3p4
3P1R1/1N1P3/2p1P2/Q2w4/1qb2BK1 - mate
in two) 1 B - R6 (threat ? kt Kb (a) 1
Kt x Bfch 2 Kt x Kt (b) 1 Kt x KP 2 Q Kb2
(c) 1 R x P 2 Q - R7 (d) 1 Q x P 2
Kt - b2

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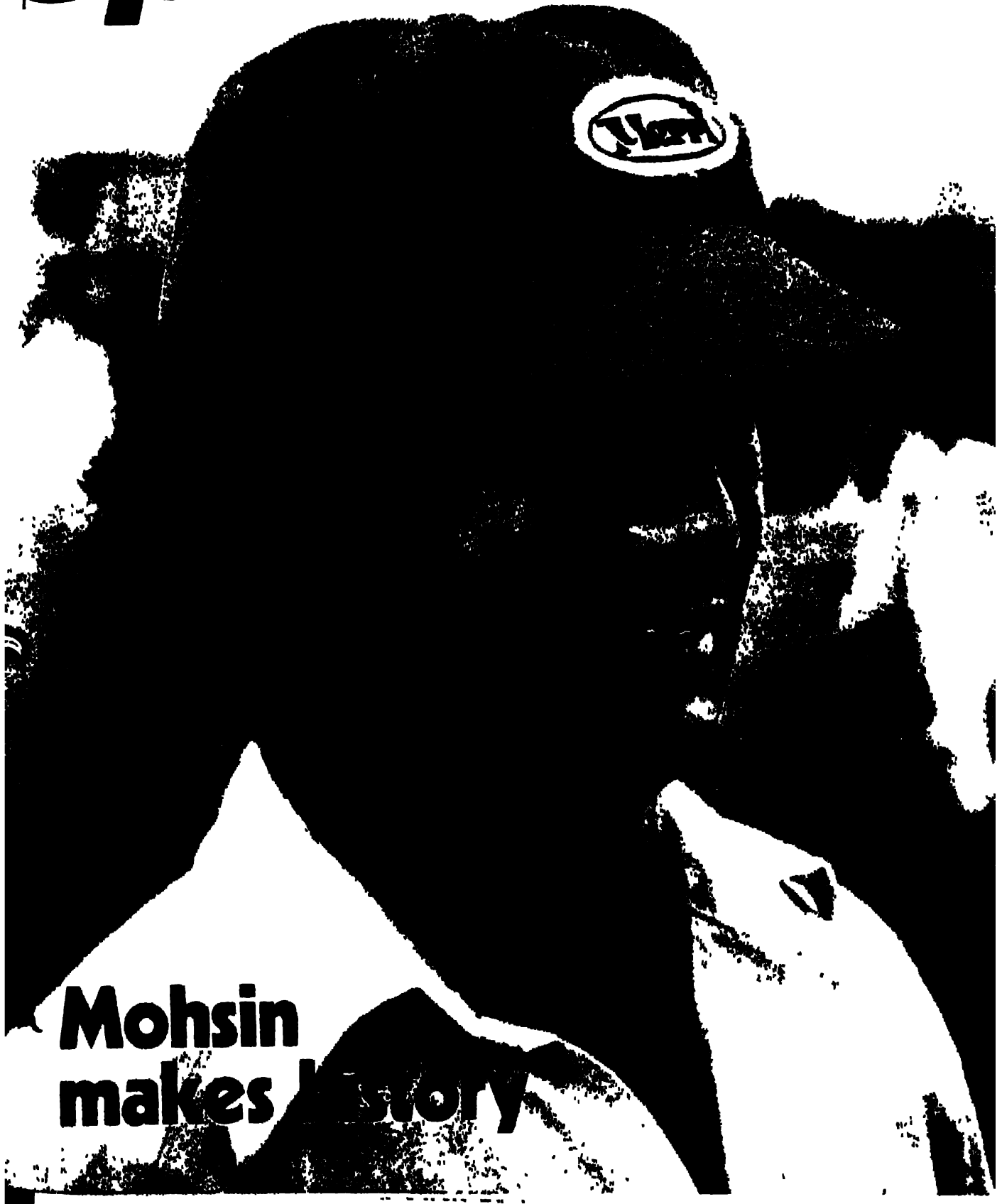
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Sportsworld



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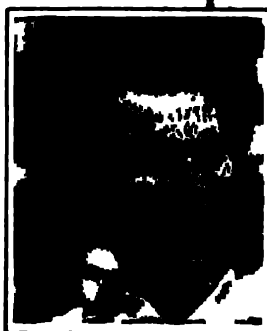


8 PAKISTAN AT LAST
Pakistan turned to a new page in their history when they beat England by 10 wickets and equalised the series. Headingley now promises to be a needle contest. PAUL FITZPATRICK reports



16 PONGOH WINS 'MASTERS'
There was much alarm in the Indian camp when Prakash Padukone was beaten by Sugiarto and another surprise when Sugiarto went down to Pongoh in the final of the Masters badminton at Hyderabad. PARTAB RAMCHAND reports

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GEORGE K. GEORGE files his US Open preview and feels that John McEnroe looks the most likely contender in the men's section and Navratilova in the women's division.



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Letters to the Editor

Not ashamed

TILL now I had always felt ashamed about the South Indians. But after reading the 11 August issue of *Sportsworld* I was convinced that we are mainly a maligned lot.

Thanks to T. E. Srinivasan for proving that the South Indians are not toothless tigers. After reading the article it seems even more certain that he will not be selected to play against Sri Lanka or be taken to Pakistan. Even then, the interview was a pleasure.

V. S. SURESH,
Madras

No such incident

PLEASE refer to your article on the Calcutta Football League published in the *Sportsworld* of the 4 August, 1982 issue (page 32, last paragraph of the second column).

While reviewing the proceedings of the Mohun Bagan versus Wari match, your reporter has started the paragraph mentioned above with "Referee Milan Datta made a glaring mistake on the day." Incidentally, it may be mentioned that I was not the referee on that day nor was I linesman for the match. It may be pointed out that I supervised the Mohun Bagan versus Bata S C game, which has been reviewed in the same issue but in that match no such incident occurred.

MILAN DATTA (Retiree),
Calcutta

Superb

AFTER seeing the remarkable coverage of the recently concluded World Cup Football '82 in your magazine I am compelled to say that it was really wonderful. It was a busy time for *Sportsworld* readers to do justice to the superb reporting of the world's biggest soccer

event. Though our national side did not participate in the tournament, your magazine's coverage was truly marvellous. On behalf of all the readers of *Sportsworld*, let me congratulate the periodical and its staff for this.

ZAYYA ARFI,
Patna

Best football XI

AFTER having seen some interesting matches of the World Cup '82 I think that the best eleven should comprise the following players: Dasayev (Russia), Collavati (Italy), Luizinho (Brazil), Junior (Brazil), Socrates (Brazil), Gonzalez (El Salvador), Platini (France), Zico (Brazil), Rossi (Italy) and Rummenigge (West Germany). I think that the captain should be Socrates and the manager Enzo Beal. If the team plays according to a 4-3-3 combination it can take on any side in the world.

SANTANU SIKDAR,
Bijoygarh

Move afoot

REPORTEDLY a move is afoot (engineered by the North India lobby) to depose Bhaskar Ganguli from the captaincy of the Indian soccer team and install Harjinder Singh instead.

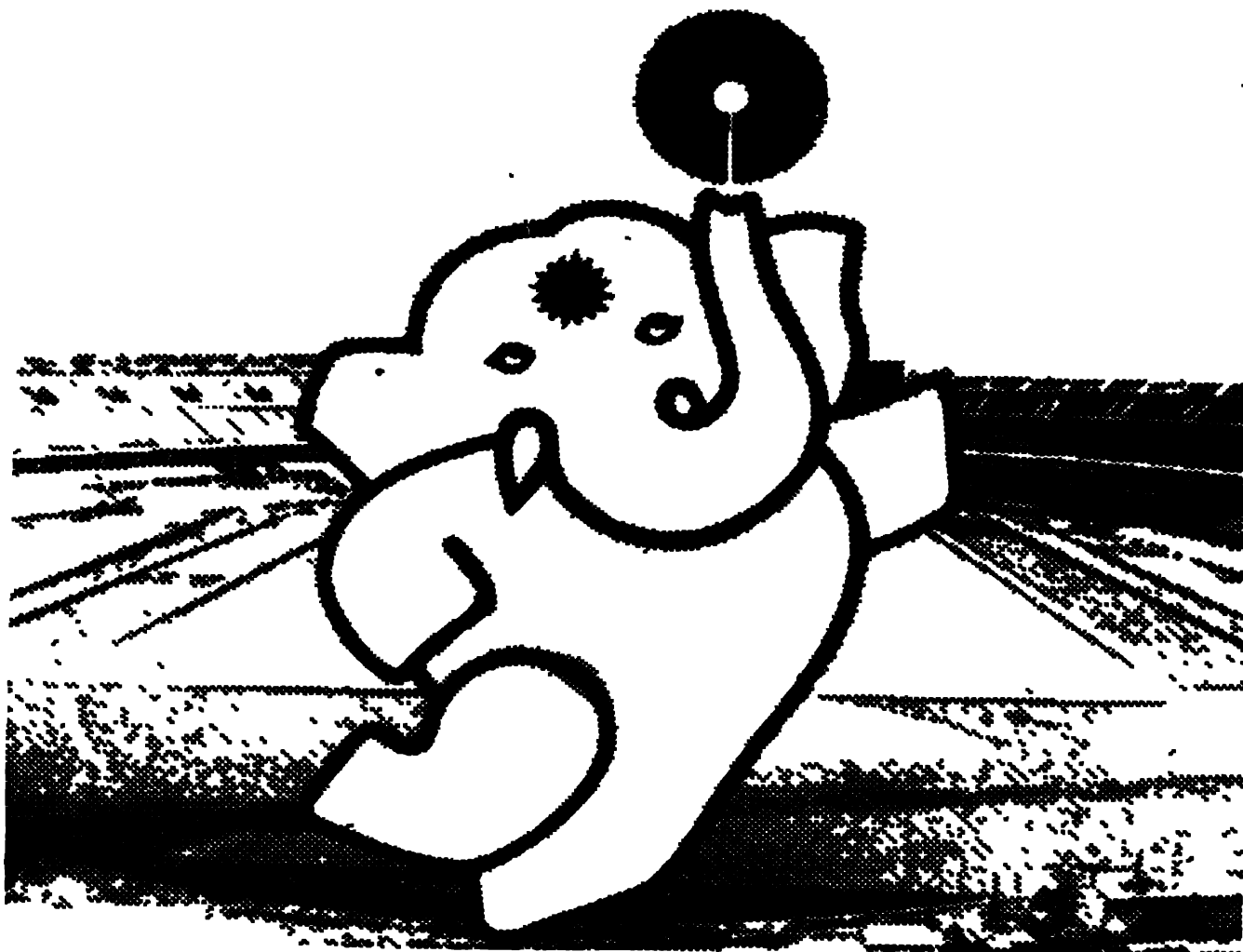
Football enthusiasts should be informed that there have been exemplary instances of international teams being led from behind. I am mentioning Lev Yashin, Sepp Maier, Dino Zoff and Rudolfo Rodricks to name a few.

S. P. MANJULI,
Residence not stated

Final say

THE only 'leg break' bowler in the world and Abdul Qadir? You probably haven't heard of Sunil Gavaskar!

SUNIL SHAH,
Raipur.



My 'Village' Hero

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The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

HOW'S THAT BABY?

California: Here are some facts worth figuring June Irwin, was 3½ mths pregnant when she won the bronze medal for platform diving in the 1952 Summer Olympics

Andrea Mead Lawrence was in her first trimester of pregnancy when she won two golds for alpine racing in the 1952 Winter Olympics

Wendy Boglioli an Olympic track champ was in the 5th month when she competed in the 100yd freestyle in 1978 Mary Jones was 8 mths pregnant when she ran the 13 1 mile Dallas White Rock Marathon in 1976!

WHAT'S UP, DOE?

Houston: Armed with playing cards, dice, dominoes, a human skull and an uncooked chicken, a Ugandan witch doctor vowed to invest his compatriot Ayub Kalule with mystical powers to return his World Boxing Association junior middleweight championship title versus Sugar Ray Leonard Clad in a red and yellow robe and a conical-shaped cap adorned with ostrich feathers, the medicine man rolled the dice over the playing cards, rattled the human skull and waved the chicken about triumphantly as a symbolic omen of victory

DOING A DOUBLE

Cornwall: Identical twins Martin and Mark Jones (19) came first in a sailing race with exactly the same timing They shared the first prize

IN A LIGHTER VEIN

New Orleans: Former lightweight champ Archie Moore on why he accepts invitations to speak at prisons "Because no one walks out in the middle of my speech"

BERNIE TELLIS



"I HATE AUGUST!"



"DADDY'S GONNA START A FIRE BY RUBBIN' TWO STICKS TOGETHER!"



"NEWS OF MY WIFE'S DEATH REACHED ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRST SET... NEEDLESS TO SAY IT AFFECTED MY GAME FOR THE REST OF THE MATCH!"

ASIAD VENUES

ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982

Talkatora Indoor Stadium has a seating snag

THE Talkatora Indoor Stadium was constructed in 1975 and has been renovated for staging the Ninth Asian Games basketball event (both men and women). This is the second project of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. The estimated cost on this project is Rs 48 lakhs. The seating accommodation for this indoor stadium is for only 2,500 which is too inadequate for this event. Even at a local basketball final one finds a crowd ranging between 5,000 and 6,000. During the Asiad when giant tournaments clash one expects not less than a 10,000 crowd.

One is forced to admit that basketball does not have the same level of spectator interest as say football, but does that mean that the sport should receive this kind of treatment? This would clearly seem to indicate that it is either the result of faulty planning or that someone is clamping down on the sport. The former explanation seems more plausible, but one thing is for sure there are going to be several disappointed basketball fans at Delhi this

year. The cream of Asian basketball is going to be on display in our capital, but those who want to see them in action will have to be content with following the game on television.

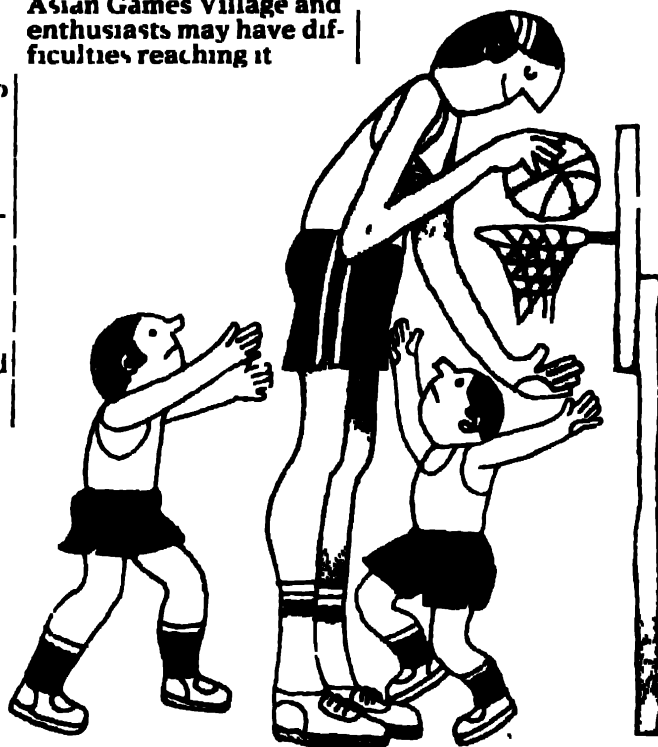
The lighting inside the stadium has been raised from 400 lux to 1,000 lux (horizontal) by installing the latest powerful Halogen lights. A separate warm-up area has been provided for the competitors, complete with a wooden court. There has been re-flooring with seasoned teakwood of the main wooden court inside the stadium. New fibreglass boards have been installed.

An electronic scoreboard will be provided by Seiko (Japan). A generating set has been kept as a standby to avoid chaos in case of failure of main supply. The present arrangement of benches has been provided with proper wooden backing. The audio arrangement has been completely replaced. The covered space available in seating tiers is being utilised for providing accommodation for various

facilities meant for the general public, players and different agencies involved in the conducting of the games. The changing-rooms for players have been renovated. Separate accommodation is being provided for the Press, AIR, P and T, Doordarshan and Films Division. A separate enclosure has been carved out for VIPS and participants.

Mikasa balls will be used and Seiko will be the official timers. The competition will run for 14 days from November 20 to December 3. The timings for matches will be 9.00 to 12.00 hours and 13.00 to 22.00 hours. This stadium is 14 kilometres from the Asian Games Village and enthusiasts may have difficulties reaching it.

Though basketball is not a mandatory sport, it has found a prominent place in all the Asian Games held thus far. The Talkatora Indoor Stadium will be fully air conditioned. The work of providing additional rooms, improvement of toilet blocks, renovation of the entire wooden flooring of the stadium, corridors, dormitories etc. have been completed. The improvement to the lighting has also been completed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.5 lakhs. Mr P. N. Bahl, Administrator, New Delhi Municipal Committee, in a simple function organised on June 11, 1982, inaugurated the lighting of the stadium.



 **DUNLOP**

lead the way

More spirited displays will seldom be seen

DAVID GOWER takes time off and sneaks in on some other sporting events on the television and then bats a little, too

WITH all the recent rain, we have all perhaps had more time than was ideal to think about things. Though if you happen to be in the same dressing-room as Ian Botham when he gets bored watching it rain, you are probably not in the best spot for a little quiet cogitation.

Naturally, at Manchester, in just this situation, there were a few discussions solely on cricket matters. 'What's the plan, Goose?' 'But on, I reckon, Lu.' 'Can 't fault it, Goose.' But with the amount of ensuing rain there is a limit to the number of times one can go through that sort of deep thinking, and so people have to diversify into other topics.

Fortunately the month also featured rain at Wimbledon and, happily, sun in Spain, not to mention some slightly mediocre weather in California for the US Open. Cricketers normally consider themselves well qualified to comment and criticise all other sports, especially after our own efforts on respective courts, course, and other sporting arenas around the world.

Ian Botham, of course, hits tennis balls and golf balls with the same exuberance as he strikes the cricket ball. He possesses two of the most contrasting serves in amateur tennis: the first might test some of those folk we watched at Wimbledon, but the second is more of a forward poke designed to ensure that the ball has the maximum chance of hitting the target but with no pretensions to beating the receiver for pace. His first choice partner on court in previous tours, Geoff Miller (together they like to be known as Higgs and Hill, for a number of reasons), brings a certain consistency to their doubles play, not to mention a certain touch. They have not been without success, though perhaps a Willis-Gower combination might prevail. Consider that a challenge.

Back to Wimbledon. We'd all rather watch the men slogging it round the court and clocking up the code violations, racquet abuse, etc. And you, there, seemed to be little less enthusiasm for watching the women, even if conversation became



Kapil Dev—great series for him

wider-ranging at those times. We even joined in the commentators' discussions as to when chairs were provided for the players on court as we watched the return of the Smith-Nastase final. Meanwhile, I have yet to see this year's final until I can get the video back. The right man won.

The World Cup also eased any nonplaying frustrations. Returning for a moment to the Leicestershire dressing room—that is all they think I ever do anyway—hence the usual enquiries whether I have come for a trial and offers to show me round the ground and introduce me to the office staff—you do find a mixture of approaches, starting with the edu-

cated opinion such as one might expect from an exprofessional footballer like Chris Balderstone who can normally communicate sensibly on these matters with captain Roger Tolchard, and the likes of John Steele and Ken Higgs. At the other end of the scale you can rely on Gordon Parsons to air the most obscure views on the matter—and every other matter if you give him time. And if you can get away from his dear side, Les Taylor will offer you something straight from the heart of the County.

Personally, one of the most typical memories of this World Cup is of the slowmotion replay of a German being fouled and managing to roll and roll and roll till you thought he could not have a decent roll left in him but no. The biggest disappointments had to be seeing the Brazilians beaten by the Italians, as well as the departure of our own lads.

As far as the golf is concerned, our enforced absence from the semi-finals of the Benson & Hedges allowed us onto the Leicestershire course to do battle with the hand-picked representatives of Camber International. Of particular needle was the contest between our gorilla and theirs. All that means is that they had someone who might once have outdriven Brian Davison but not any more, as 'Davo' took up the challenge admirably and consistently left his pinnacle past his opponent's ball on the fairway. Leicestershire happily won the match 1-1 with Davo and myself triumphing on the 18th. Golf seems to be one of our breed's favourite relaxations.

As is normal, despite all this wholesome relaxation, we still have a certain amount of cricket to play when the weather allows, and at Old Trafford both sides produced a fair amount of entertaining cricket. At Test level you will not see many more spirited displays than those of Ian Botham, Sandeep Patil and Kapil Dev. The greatest shame is the lack of people who were there to see those contributions, though it is possible to understand folk not trusting the weather. With one remaining Test against the Indians and the three to come against Pakistan it would be a great boost for us in particular to see more people in the stands. We may not be playing the Australians this year but if the same sort of crowds were present at least it would feel like it, and the cricket would reflect that. Whenever the atmosphere is there, players raise themselves above their normal attitude—but when the stands are empty all the atmosphere has to come from within.

I suppose we shall just have to think of all those folks switching on at home and passing the same sort of comments as we on Connors, Shilton or Nicklaus.

COURTESY WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY *

SECOND CORNHILL ENGLAND-PAKISTAN TEST

PAKISTAN EQUALISE

Pakistan made history by beating England for the first time in 28 years and the sins of the first Test appeared forgiven. Mohsin Khan hit an unbelievable 200, the wily Qadir kept down the scoring and Mudassar chipped in with six wickets to make it a Test to remember. PAUL FITZPATRICK reports

DAVID GOWER will not remember his first day as England's captain with an excess of affection. Pakistan made considerable reparation for their batting lapses in the first Test at Edgbaston and with Mohsin Khan playing fluently, stylishly and confidently for an undefeated 159 ended the first day of the second Cornhill Test at Lord's at 295 for three a mountainous total looked like looming before English eyes.

There was not a great deal Gower could do about it. His first misfortune on finding himself deputising for the unfit Willis was to lose the toss. There cannot have been many easier paced Lord's wickets this season, very occasionally a ball would keep low but with the bounce consistent and movement through the air and off the seam minimal batting was a luxury to be indulged in.

Not was Gower helped by the modest attack at his disposal and without Willis England looked ordinary. Jackman came in for Willis and tried hard as he always does. But Lord's was not one of his great wicket-taking grounds. Jackman had only to wait five deliveries for his first wicket in Test cricket in the West Indies last year and success came slightly less quickly on the first day. But after having Mudassar caught low by Taylor his chief contributors to the day were his scurrying energy and a number of bellicose shouts for leg before though none gained a sympathetic hearing.

If Gower made a mistake at all it was, perhaps, to bowl Botham too much since the man's appetite for work is insatiable since he is England's main strike bowler and since he prefers to bowl in long spells this was forgivable. But with the England attack much of a muchness Gower might have been wiser to employ him in shorter shifts.

Hemmings, the only alternative to the diet of medium-paced seam, strove for line and length, earned respect but caused no insuperable problems. And if the rub of the green went against Pakistan at Birmingham it was certainly in their favour this day which should teach them

that disappointments tend to equal out.

All the marginal leg-before shouts went in their favour and on an undistinguished day for English outcricket four chances, one of them extremely difficult, were bungled.

Mudassar the less flamboyant partner, in an indecently brisk opening stand of 53 was missed by Taylor off Botham. That was not to prove such an expensive blunder. The chance that Pringle fumbled when Mohsin had reached 72 was a straightforward catch to first slip again off Botham's bowling.

Mohsin gave another extremely difficult caught and bowled chance to Jackman soon after reaching his second Test century and then Lavare failed to hold a sharp chest-high chance offered by Zaheer off Pringle with Zaheer looking in ominously good form that too proved an expensive lapse.

Although Pakistan took full advantage of modest bowling and an inviting pitch there were still signs that their biggest enemy is themselves. Mohsin from the first ball of the day, when he struck Botham all along the ground straight for four, played beautifully showing a preference for the leg side but producing strokes all round the wicket but there were times when he had to struggle with his own impetuosity.

There was the occasionally risky swish outside the off stump and a desire to attempt foolhardy runs when he was 96 and in reach of that coveted hundred he went in search of a nonexistent run, had to turn and scurry to recover. Is crease. But he would still have been run out if Gatting's throw from square leg had not missed the wicket by a fraction.

His few precradilloes apart, Mohsin looked a batsman of undoubted quality. He frequently leaned across to the off to force the ball square through midwicket or widish mid on. But he is no exclusive legside player. If England bowled at him on the off he would hit powerfully through the covers or cut forcefully. If England have cause to regret their lost opportunities they should

also be grateful that Mansoor and Javed Miandad tossed their wickets away. Mansoor had shared a second wicket stand off 144 with Mohsin when he pulled a long hop from Botham straight to Lamb at mid on, Javed's departure being even more unnecessary, run out when attempting to take a second run that simply did not exist.

PAKISTAN did not turn the screw on England quite as painfully as they might have done on the second day of the Lord's Cornhill Test. Bad light in the morning and heavy rain in the afternoon was a hindrance to the tourists but even though three hours were lost the addition of 133 runs for the loss of five more wickets must have fallen short of Imran Khan's ambitions.

England, assuming that they can capture the last two wickets with reasonable speed, did not need to score greatly in excess of 200 to save the follow on and on this amiable wicket it should not have proved too difficult and if they had saved the follow on they would have saved the game.

It was a shame that the weather should turn so perverse on a day when Lord's was full but at least, the many spectators who remained until the extended hour of seven o'clock had the pleasure of sharing a rare moment, that of Mohsin Khan becoming only the eighth player to score a double hundred at Lord's in a Test. He was out immediately after reaching this lordly target but no matter he now finds himself in the company of Bradman, Hammond, Hobbs, Compton, Brown, Hardstaff and Donnelly, the last man to score 200 at Lord's being way back in 1949.

It is doubtful, however, if any of the members of this exclusive club were forced to wait so long to achieve their double hundreds. At lunch Mohsin had reached 193 in the 20 minutes and after lunch he moved to 199 and then just before the rain set in Pringle bowled him a maiden over and he was condemned to a wait of four hours before he was able to resume.

At last he made it, turning Botham off his hips and running joyously for the single, holding his bat in two hands above his head as he did so. Only Zaheer, his partner, in a fourth wicket stand of 153 has made a double hundred in Tests for Pakistan against England and it seemed appropriate that Mohsin should now have joined him.

Zaheer was launched brilliantly upon the English public at Birmingham in 1971. Mohsin's development has been slightly slower and less spectacular but it will be a surprise if we have not witnessed here the emergence of a singular new talent.

Zaheer played some exquisite strokes when Pakistan resumed at 295 for three and quickly reached his 50. Mohsin took such a liking to Pringle's bowling that he took 14 runs off one over but in spite of such embarrassments England and the willing Jackman especially could feel reasonably gratified with their efforts although a flurry of strokes from Wasim Bari and Abdul Qadir brought a late muting to English optimism.

The first surprise came when Zaheer was beaten by a ball from Jackman which pitched off and hit off somehow squeezing between bat and pad. That was followed almost immediately by the fall of Haroon Rashid, beaten on the front foot by Botham and adjudged leg before by umpire Constant on this easy paced pitch. The fall of wickets had scarcely entered the calculations and now here were two gone in successive overs.

Another wicket was not to fall until much later in the pale sunlight of the evening but that was the dictate of the weather not the pitch or the Pakistan batsmen. After reaching that high quality double hundred Mohsin—an obviously composed man but perhaps, just briefly allowing his concentration to wander—flicked loosely at Jackman and was caught comfortably at square leg.

Three deliveries later, the deserving Jackman secured another wicket when he bowled a slower ball at Naqqash, induced a false stroke and Gatting took a comfortable catch trotting from mid off. Pakistan clearly wanted runs quickly but the hint of anxiety in their batting persisted when Imran drove at Botham and gave Taylor a low catch. England at that stage possibly held ambitions of cleaning up the innings before the close but Wasim and Qadir remained together until the end—confidently and profitably so.

PAKISTAN'S torch in quest for victory flamed up in a greater effulgence by the end of the third day with England panting hard at 226 for nine wickets. A couple more or a couple away from the target would have represented two entirely different possibilities but Gower

must have taken solace in the fact that Gatting, due to take the strike first thing on the fourth morning, was batting with 31 and a boundary from him or Jackman and the Test could be saved.

The day for England opened up with Tavaré bringing up the first dismissal, playing back to Sarfraz, getting an edge and the ball rolling on to his stumps. But that did not call up the brakes for England as Lamb and Randall showed their healthy scorn and the 50 of the innings was already up in 49 minutes. Randall, who had been playing a thoroughly sketchy innings, soon went for 29, another Sarfraz victim, getting the inside edge of an incutter and being bowled.

Allan Lamb was at that time doing rather well for himself, entrenching himself and interspersing his strokes with a remarkable grit in defence. But to heighten England's wheeze further he went, making the unpardonable error of extending his bat well ahead of the line of his front pad. Haroon at short leg held on and the fervent chanting of immigrants just below the Grandstand acquired a greater pitch.



Chris Tavaré—sent minds back to Bailey

Meanwhile, Gower at the end was sailing in for heavy weather. Normally, his way of pacing things leaves little to be desired but on this occasion his tendency to be foot-tied looked more pronounced and the runs painfully stopped. He took an age to get into double figures—the captaincy seemed to be already showing the effects—and his first boundary came after nigh 200 minutes.

Botham at the other end for once seemed robbed of his aggression, the Pakistan bowling going on a strict economy squeeze. Botham, though not greatly uncomfortable but absolutely reticent could try little apart from piercing Naqqash through the covers a couple of times. He had come in after Gower but raced past his skipper in comparative flurry. But a change in sides by Qadir probably upset him, and the spinner resorting to round the wicket had Botham heaving to square leg where Mohsin Khan added one more to his

achievements for Pakistan in the Test. Now the fight was hotting up and especially so when Gower after an age fell, caught Imran bowled Mohsin.

Gatting was expected to go early but this was one occasion in Tests when he rooted himself in, watching his partners wilt. It was Derek Pringle to go first making yet no impression on the critic Qadir, shifted by now to the Nursery End. Had Pringle nabbed at short leg and some time later, it was Ian Greig trapped plumb before one that kept low.

The tension was really mounting as England made their progress towards that magic mark of survival but the wickets kept going. Not that Hemmings did much to stem the rot and when within shying distance Sarfraz accounted for him, clean bowled.

Usually in times when runs are most desperately required, or even a hanger-on for that matter, you could safely rely on Bob Taylor. But here, he fumbled and his erring limb was very much in the way and the wily Qadir had done it again. Now only a handful separated a draw and England with Gatting taking charge of one end. He had displayed guts in great amount and for once showed the fibre of which he is made, not too greatly exhibited at Test level.

ENGLAND were some way away from saving the Test but not so distant as when they were nine for three in their second innings after following on 201 runs in arrears of Pakistan at the close of the fourth day. England were 95 for three and needed another 106 to make the tourists bat again and if England had ever saved this game they would have owed a debt to the weather. Pakistan at a crucial time on the Friday of the Test were denied batting opportunities and the day before rain, after a morning that promised the most peasant of days, halted their bowlers in full cry. The players came out after lunch but were immediately driven back to the pavilion because of bad light and were then forced to remain indoors until 5.30 p.m. Pakistan's frustration was understandable. The Lord's Test is blighted, it rarely passes without interruption from the weather or by disturbance from controversy of one sort or another. The third day produced another umpiring incident when David Constant invoked law 42 after Qadir's near-demented appeal for leg before against Botham was rejected. Then last night the umpires were involved in more contention over the light. Play appeared to have ended for the day soon after 7 p.m. but with spectators demanding action and after a great deal of procrastination and the holding aloft of light meters the umpires ordered a restart which lasted just one over. Cricket's ability for holding itself up to self ridicule

shows no signs of ending but these incidents apart this has been a fine Test so far and England's recovery yesterday, wrought by Botham and Tavaré provided another gripping episode in what has been a riveting contest

Speculation as to whether England would save the follow on was quickly settled when play resumed at Saturday night's score of 226 for nine. Gattling took a single off Imran's first over and it proved to be a mistake. The last ball of the over trapped Jackman leg before and England by two runs had failed in their first objective. The start of their second innings was calamitous and the source of England's embarrassment was surprising, to say the least. Mudassar is not the worst bowler in the world by any means but he is not such a terror that he should be taking three prime English wickets in just six deliveries.

England had coped well if not with any great conviction with the opening salvoes fired by Imran. How desperately unlucky he had been on the third day with Saif-az and possibly Randall, Tavaré and the England camp in general must have felt a sense of relief when Mudassar was brought into the attack from the Nursery End in place of Sarfraz. He was probably only brought on so as to allow Imran and Sarfraz to change ends. Relief indeed. Three overs later, the English innings appeared to be in ruins.

Randall, who had played down the wrongline to Sarfraz now did the same to Mudassar and his off stump was sent spinning a distance. In the same over, Lamb pushed half forward was struck on the front pad and looked up in mortification to see umpire Bird's finger raised. A careworn Test for David Gower, his first as England's captain, brought even more disappointment in Mudassar's next over when Gower followed a ball that was slanted across his body. He could have left it alone but he seemed not to be thinking too sharply and a faint outside edge gave Wasim Bari the easiest of catches behind the stumps and the Pakistanis another excuse for collective celebration.

Tavaré, meanwhile, was still strokeless but at least he had survived and he was now joined by the reassuring figure of Botham striding to the wicket with that purposefulness which means so much to England these days. His form before this game was not totally convincing and there were depressing scores of two and nought at Edgbaston to give the tourists every encouragement of capturing his wicket cheaply but he was not to be bought at any price this day and neither was Tavaré. Slowly England came back to life.

Tavaré's feats of slow scoring are already becoming infamous. He was now to take 67 minutes before get-

ting off the mark. Only four Test players have taken longer but since England were thinking only in terms of saving this game and occupation of the crease was all important, Tavaré's contribution was not to be underestimated. Botham was outstanding looking again in that impenetrable form that he produced so consistently against India earlier this summer. His defences and judgment looked impeccable and his attacking strokes came with a full flow of the bat.

Thrice before lunch he struck Qadir for fours in a single over after the rain and the long interruption. Botham's mood and his tactics altered Qadir, possibly in the hope that Botham would sweep as he had done to his destruction in the first innings, persisted in bowling round the wicket. The ball had frequently pitched outside the line of the leg stump and Botham had simply kept putting his left pad in the way. It was not the prettiest of sights but it nullified all of Qadir's danger.

For 30 minutes Botham remained scoreless but then began moving again when he clocked Imran for four off his legs and when Qadir overpitched he was mercilessly thrashed through the covers to the boundary. He reached his 50 when he read Qadir's googly perfectly and chopped him down to third man for three. He has produced faster half centuries but few more valuable.

Soon after seven p.m. with play scheduled to continue for another hour, the players went off for bad light. There followed one of those low comedy scenes in which the umpires returned, held up light meters, looked miserable and then after jeers from the few remaining spectators ordered a restart. One over was bowled and they all trooped off again to the now familiar sight at Lord's of cushions being hurled on to the ground.

NOT since 1954 and the days of Fazal Mahmood, have Pakistan enjoyed such satisfaction as they did at Lord's on the last day. The Cornhill Test, grippingly fought from the start, ended in victory for Pakistan by 10 wickets and any other result would have been an injustice. The prospects for the final Test at Headingley with the sides now level in the three-match series are appealing.

Pakistan's second win over England in this country was achieved in the end with 29 balls to spare, a safe enough margin. But the last phase of a day on which England might just have saved the game was tense and exciting and a fitting end to a fine contest. England were bowled out in their second innings for 276 and that left Pakistan 18 overs to secure the 76 runs required to win.

A rate of a fraction above four an over was not too demanding. But,

adding spice to the plot was the threat of rain. This had been forecasted to arrive at four o'clock but, to Pakistan's relief, failed to materialise. The game, however, did finish in light which in normal circumstances would scarcely have been tolerated. But, of course, the Pakistani batsmen, would have been prepared to bat in the light of a coal cellar to secure this historic and memorable win.

The way Mohsin Khan and Javed Miandad set about their task of scoring runs was in keeping with so much of Pakistan's cricket in this game. It was positive and assured. England's careworn captain David Gower, did not have a great many options open to him and whatever methods he might have used to try to defend his small reserves would probably have proved inadequate.

But it still required calm nerves, clear thinking and a lot of swift running between the wickets for Pakistan to reach their goal.

But Mohsin and Javed rarely faltered. No chance was offered by either batsman and such was the judgement of their running between wickets that there were no alarms in this department either. They made the most encouraging start, taking nine runs off Botham's opening over, and from the next 14 overs and one ball, runs accumulated steadily. Not once were England allowed even the small encouragement of a maiden over.

After seven overs the offensive had been firmly launched with Mohsin again displaying an enviably composed nature. The eighth over bowled by Jackman, then yielded 11 runs with Mohsin twice lofting the Surrey bowler high to mid wicket for boundaries which were greeted jubilantly by the agitated and vociferous Pakistani supporters in that part of the ground.

There was an idiotic moment when the umpires offered the batsmen the benefit of the light and there seemed just a possibility that the weather, which has been less kind to Pakistan than England in this match, might provide a final bitter twist to the tale.

Pakistan were not to be denied and the fourteenth over arrived with just three runs needed. Hemmings bowled it and Javed cut the first ball emphatically for four. He turned and raced for the pavilion as the Pakistani spectators poured jubilantly on to the ground.

England, nevertheless, came closer to saving the game than had once seemed possible and the uncompromising nature of their cricket on this final day heightened the tension. It should be remembered, of course, that when England followed on 201 runs behind on the Sunday of the game they were soon nine for three. And with the best part of two

days to go That Pakistan should have to wait so long for their win was one of the more encouraging aspects of a match which has demanded some searching questions of the England side

The most prominent figure as England manned the barricades was Chris Tavare He is not arguably the best opening batsman in English cricket Many of his longer vigils have been frankly boring He finds it hard to move up a gear even when he has been at the wicket for long periods But, as he extended hour by hour an innings which had begun early on the fourth day, it was impossible not to admire his character, resilience and concentration More than once throughout the day the partnership of Watson and Blevie that saved a Test against Australia in 1953 was recalled Tavare's long watch was of such proportions

Tavare would allow nothing to distract him After he has played a delivery, usually with a dead bat, he walks considerable distances from his wicket rapt in concentration, occasionally prodding offensive pieces of turf many yards from his crease and staring intently downwards into that private, implacable world of his, cocooned from everything but the next delivery

By only seven minutes did he fail

to complete the slowest half-century on record Twice during a vigil of almost seven hours he spent two sessions of almost an hour each time when he failed to score a run No one has ever quite managed that before The man's capacity for strokelessness is unrivalled, and so is his concentration What the Sydney Hill or the Outer Ring at Melbourne will make of him this winter, one shudders to think But then, Tavare is likely to remain oblivious to the raucous cries of 'Have a go, yer mug'

With Botham Tavare shared a fourth wicket stand of 112, a partnership unfortunately for England that was parted too soon when Botham cut Mudassar and Sarfraz at gully made a difficult catch look deceptively simple, Mudassar, already with three wickets to his credit, was to finish this unforgettable day with six for 32 Those were the unlikely statistics of all And this from a man who appeared only in the 'also-bowled' columns for Cheshire last season

Gatting also fell to Mudassar and again to a stroke that can have given him no satisfaction Pringle, who will be fortunate to retain his place in the side once more failed to fathom our the mysteries of Qadir and again Greig looked a batsman short of Test quality But Tavare remained and

after reaching his 50, even began to launch into his strokes

He deserved a hundred, for patience as much as anything else, but was beginning to show just a little too much of aggression when he drove at a widish delivery from Imran and gave Javed a juggling catch at second slip That, it seemed safe to assume, was the end of England's serious resistance but, after Hemmings had been caught at the wicket off Imran, Taylor and Jackman joined forces for such lengthy occupation as to throw the result into doubt once again

For 18 frustrating overs the last pair stayed together, Taylor hobbling after being struck on the right foot by one of Imran's thunderbolts, and Jackman, through Pakistani eyes, looking ominously assured Signs of anxiety began to creep into the tourists' bowling as the pair forged their partnership and the runs mounted

Had it continued much longer than it did—and it realised 41 runs—Pakistan might have been in serious difficulties with the overs beginning to run out But Qadir and Jackman were eventually caught close to the wicket and Mohsin, a thoroughly deserved choice for the Man of the Match, and Javed completed the job, efficiently

PAKISTAN VERSUS ENGLAND, Lord's

PAKISTAN (First innings)

MUDASSAR NAZAR c Taylor b Jackman 20
MOHSIN KHAN a Tavare b Jackman 200 not out 39
MANSOOR AKHTAR c Lamb b Botham 57
JAVED MIANDAD run out 6 not out 28
ZAHEER ABBAS b Jackman 75
HAROON RASHID lbw Botham 1
IMRAN KHAN c Taylor b Botham 12
TAHIR NAQQASH c Gatting b Jackman 2
WASIM BARI not out 24
ABDUL QADIR not out 18
EXTRAS 13

TOTAL (for eight wickets declared) 428

(for no wicket)

12
77

Fall of wickets: 1/56, 2/197, 3/208, 4/361, 5/364, 6/369, 7/382, 8/401.

Bowling: 44-8-148-3, Jackman 34-6-110-4, Pringle 28-6-82-0, Greig 13-2-49-0, Hemmings 30-3-82-0.

Bowling: Botham 7-0-30-0, Jackman 4-0-22-0, Hemmings 2-1-6-15-0.

ENGLAND (First innings)

DEREK RANDALL bowled Sarfraz
CHRIS TAVARE b Sarfraz
ALLAN LAMB b Haroon b Naqqash
DAVID GOWER c Mansoor b Imran
IAN BOTHAM c Mansoor b Qadir
MIKE GATTING not out
DEREK PRINGLE c Haroon b Qadir
IAN GREIG lbw Qadir
EDDIE HEMMINGS b Sarfraz
BOB TAYLOR lbw Qadir
ROBIN JACKMAN lbw Imran
EXTRAS

TOTAL

20

5

20

20

31

40

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

9

82

0

0

9

7

14

2

14

24

17

39

278

Fall of wickets: 1/5, 2/21, 3/41, 4/121, 5/121, 6/121, 7/121, 8/121.

Fall of wickets: 1/12, 2/12, 3/12, 4/12, 5/12, 6/12, 7/12, 8/12.

Bowling: 44-8-148-3, Jackman 34-6-110-4, Pringle 28-6-82-0, Greig 13-2-49-0, Hemmings 30-3-82-0.

Bowling: Botham 7-0-30-0, Jackman 4-0-22-0, Hemmings 2-1-6-15-0.

I am now full of vigour and drive once again

Chetan Chauhan talks to A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DISAPPOINTED at being dropped for the England tour, Chetan Chauhan is again his old, vigorous self, full of zest for the game. The

way our opening stand was repeatedly dissolved on the England tour, they must have longed for the man they had left back home. However,



Chetan Chauhan—the drive is back again

the rest appears to have done Chauhan good. At 35, the doughty Rajput, fit as ever before, is yearning to do battle again for India. Training regularly with Delhi's Ranji Trophy probables, he took time off during his Janmashtami fast to talk to Sportsworld.

SPORTSWORLD: In a private chat after the team for England had been chosen you had said, "No worry, I'll come back." What made you say that?

CHETAN CHAUHAN: I said that because I have confidence in myself. I know I have the ability, physical fitness and most of the other requisites for an opening batsman. Besides, I have not failed in Test cricket, having scored more than 2,000 runs. I never give up. I am made that way. I have been working hard to come back and hard work always pays.

SW: How did you take your omission?

C.C.: Naturally, I was disappointed.

SW: You have toured England before. Few people are better qualified to talk of the business of opening a Test innings for a touring team in England. Why did we fail to find a stable partner for Gavaskar?

C.C.: English conditions are the toughest to play in—especially for opening batsmen. Great players who had been scoring heavily in their own countries have failed in England. As for our failure, it could be due to inexperience, lack of temperament for the big occasion or flaws in technique, especially in the English conditions.

SW: What are your views on promoting Ravi Shastri as an opening batsman?

C.C.: It is very sporting and gallant of him to have agreed to take on the job.

SW: Following the tour from New Delhi, where you stay, what, according to you, are the lessons of the tour?

C.C.: We must try, as far as possible, to send more experienced players on English tours. I agree we should also try out youngsters, but not so many at a time. Not more than two or three.

SW: Our attack also did not do too well. What about our spinners?

C.C.: By far, Kapil is our only weapon. But one bowler cannot win a game. Madan is a great trier, but I would prefer him as a number three seamer. We must look around for bowlers to support Kapil. As for spin, I think Dilip Doshi is capable of doing a good job in helpful conditions.

SW: The Sri Lankans will be here next month. Don't you think that that would be the time to experiment?

C.C.: I am sure the selectors will try out new probables because there are

two tough tours coming—Pakistan and the West Indies

SW: Would you have given the England tour failures another chance if you were a selector?

C.C. It is up to the selectors.

SW: With one-day cricket assuming so much importance, don't you think special needs should be considered when selecting a touring party?

C.C. We should stress on the Test 16 only. The one day players will emerge from them.

SW: New rules have been framed for the Ranji Trophy matches based on the English County experience. What do you think about the change?

C.C. Good for our cricket. Hitherto, batsmen got most of the importance because the first innings lead meant so much. Much depended on piling up a big total. Often teams were contented to play for a draw. This trend will go out now. The biggest advantage of the change in the rule is for the bowlers. There will be points for capturing wickets of the opposing side also. Cricket will be more positive. More outright results will be seen in the three day games. There will now be no points for first innings lead. The new rules will also give a better chance to

a training camp which is very tough. I do everything the others do. I even out do them!

SW: How did you spend the summer months at home when the national team was touring England?

C.C. I worked hard in the office at my ten-to-five job. I have changed jobs—from the Bank of Maharashtra to the Bank of Baroda. On alternate days I jogged six kilometres. But I did not play much cricket. I took a temporary leave from the game. The rest has done me good. I am now full of vigour and drive once again, full of enthusiasm. I feel the rest has sharpened my edge.

SW: The selectors came under unprecedented criticism following the announcement of the team to England. What are your own views?

C.C. This is not good for cricket. Once the team is selected, it is selected. Don't forget the feelings of those selected players against whom the criticism is directed. Those men have still to play and perform. Criticism like the type we had can be very discouraging.

SW: Do you not think that the selectors should watch more matches?

C.C. It will be good if more domestic fixtures are followed. However,

cost him his wicket many a time. Yes, they seek my advice and they get it.

SW: And this criticism of your being a slow scorer, or a batsman without strokes?

C.C. Yes I am aware of it. In a Test team there should be two grafters, batsmen who can hold the innings together. It is not wise to have all stroke-players in a batting line-up. It is too risky. People who are grafters stay at the wicket for a long time and are depended upon. In a Test match there is a lot of time—five whole days to bat through.

SW: How would you compare yourself with Tavare or Boycott of England and Gavaskar?

C.C. I think I play more shots than the first two. As for Gavaskar, well, there is no point in comparing me with him. He is one of best in the world.

SW: But at least this correspondent does not subscribe to the view that you have no shots in your repertoire. You are quite capable of playing good strokes. Why don't you step up your run-rate? Your critics will only be too happy to see you do so.

C.C. It's all a question of the situation. I would love to play my shots. It's also a question of getting loose balls. Most of the time I

It was very gallant of him (Shastri) to have agreed to take on the job (of opening)

I think I play more shots than Tavare or Boycott

Criticism like the type we had after the team was selected can be very discouraging

weaker teams to gain points. They can get points for taking wickets and this is very good for domestic cricket.

SW: Any other steps you have in mind which could help improve the domestic scene? Any suggestions?

C.C. Yes I would like some sort of a method to be devised so that weaker teams can employ professionals, either from their own Zone or from any other Zone, but with the undertaking that they play for a minimum stipulated period. These players could be paid anything from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 for a match. I have in mind associations like Jammu and Kashmir. There are so many good players in centres like Delhi and Bombay unable to find a place in these sides. Indian cricket will benefit in many ways. Weaker teams will become stronger, matches will be more interesting and good cricketers, while gaining financially from the game, will find opportunities to prove themselves.

SW: You have started training again with the Delhi team. You are 35 and not getting any younger. How fit are you compared to last year?

C.C. Regular training—jogging, fitness exercises etc.—has kept me about seven years younger. At the moment I am as fit as any other cricketer. Bishan Bedi is conducting

domestic performances should not be the sole criterion for selection. Eighty per cent of the runs scored in domestic matches are against spin bowlers. Equal importance should be given to a batsman's performance in international cricket, where most of the runs have to be scored against hostile fast bowling.

SW: You are a known fitness enthusiast. Tell us if our cricketers on tour follow the fitness schedule they are taught at the training camps before the start of the tours.

C.C. On tour they do it collectively. But in the off-season, well, it depends on the individual players themselves.

SW: You are a senior player—something of an elder statesman. Captains are said to respect your word. What about the younger players? Do they look up to you for advice? What sort of help do you give them?

C.C. Sometimes the younger players do seek my help. And I am very helpful to them. No names, please. But there is one young up-and-coming batsman who is trying to correct a flaw in his technique after I told him that his bat was coming down from the gully position. Another batsman, also a rising player, is trying to check his tendency to play across—a tendency which has

have been under a lot of pressure—whether playing for India or for Delhi.

SW: As I said earlier, at 35 you are not getting any younger. Isn't age against you?

C.C. Age should not be the criterion for selection. Ability, fitness and performance only. These factors should be considered rather than the age of a player. Boycott is 44 but still one of the fittest in the business. Wicket-keeper Taylor is 40. Jackman, summoned by England's selectors as a replacement for Willis, is 37. Fletcher is 39 and Underwood is also of the same age.

SW: And then this criticism that the Indian cricket team lacks a professional approach. What do you have to say to that?

C.C. Yes, it is lacking. Maybe the atmosphere in which this approach develops is not there.

SW: But to develop this "professional" approach the atmosphere should be there at all levels of our domestic cricket. This approach cannot be built overnight.

C.C. Yes, there should be "professional" management of teams at all levels of our domestic cricket. Men like Venkat, Bedi, Ashok Mankad, Nadkarni, Borde, Umrigar and Gavaskar could do a lot to build this approach.

Spot report

MASTERS OPEN BADMINTON

Pongoh wins sans interest

PARTAB RAMCHAND reports from Hyderabad

ON the eve of the second Indian Master's Open Badminton Tournament there were more pessimists than optimists. This seemed understandable. On the face of it, an international tournament without Han Jian, Hadiyanto, Ray Stevens, Niehroft, Nora Perry, Zheng Yuli, Sally Podger and Ivana (all of whom participated in the inaugural Master's at Pune in November last year) could hardly have any glamour. Also going to be missed were Leim Swee King, Martin Frost Hansen, Luan Jin, Kevin Jolly, and Lene Koppen. It

was quickly obvious that compared to the ambitious Pune tournament this year's championship at the Fateh Maidan Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad was going to be almost second rate.

At the end of the five day meet, held between August 11 and 15, it could be said that most of the pessimism was justified. Out of over 50 matches played in five events, only a handful were really of international class. But of the five days, only one—the third day—really provided badminton of the Master's variety.

Then there were organisational gaffes and plenty of complaints from both the players and the Press. One got the impression that unless something is done—and done fast—this international prize money tournament, initiated with much ballyhoo last year in this country, will simply cease to exist.

It is not difficult to pinpoint the reasons as to why the top players stayed away from the Hyderabad tournament. Badminton Association of India officials kept harping on the fact that there were a greater number of participants in this year's tournament. But what is quantity without quality? and quality was something one hardly saw at Hyderabad. Everyone who saw the Pune tournament, unanimously agreed that it was a far greater success, from any angle.

The Indian badminton fans—who are not as gullible as the organisers would like them to be—stayed away in great numbers. For example tickets at Pune were priced at between Rs 250 and Rs 1500. Still, 5,000 to 6,000 fans gathered at the stadium every day. At Hyderabad, the rates were much cheaper yet the 3,500 capacity Fateh Maidan stadium was



Master Lius Pongoh

The Masters' Hoax

NO matter which way you look at it, you cannot escape the fact that the Indian Masters Badminton Tournament is being the way of the Indian Masters Grand Prix money. The organisers are saying much for the tournament. It is a total hoax.

This is in spite of the fact that the Indian Masters is offering prize money of Rs 10,000 sterling (about £2,000) which is giving away a considerable amount of foreign exchange. What do we get in return? Players like K. Gopale, M. Gopale, P. Praveen, M. Yashwanth, etc. have heard of in the Indian Masters.

Besides wasting this enormous amount in foreign exchange, the tournament authorities have paid the 50 players that they claim had entered the event, all food and board & lodging. One must not forget that there may have been a "few" officials for whom the same courtesy must have been extended. One wonders how much expenditure has been incurred on foreign contingents.

An event is called a Masters Event, because you have the top players participating. Can you imagine the tennis Masters being held without the Lendl, McEnroe, Connors or Borg? And yet the Indian Masters badminton is held without Morten Friis, Hansen, Luan Jin, Han Jianping and Swie King. Moreover at the Masters, you have the top players participating and not every time only Dick and Harry. At least at Pune event last year when the first Indian Masters badminton event was held the entry list was restricted to players in the top's event. But here at Hyderabad there were more than eight players in the event. In view of this, would it not be more pertinent to call the Indian event an international one rather than a Masters.

Reportedly, these top players would only come if the prize money was a bit higher to make it worth their while. This agreement is ludicrous. The officials organising the tournament should be able to ensure that a few of the top players come or otherwise it is best scrap the tournament. Without the leading exponents of the game on view the purpose of conducting the event is defeated. Neither do the Indian players get the experience of playing against the good opposition, nor do the enthusiasts get to see top-class badminton.

By holding such a competition we are only serving the purpose

of the organisers and Yashwanth, who get to play Prakash Padukone. What is more amusing is that these top players and their grade players are paid by the organisers. We have to decide once and for all, for whom are we having the tournament? Is it for our players or for the foreigners? If we are paying good money why should we settle for second grade players. For a local tournament offering stakes of Rs 25,000 is an achievement and now we are spending enormous money for such low returns.

Silly enough, we Indians seem to attach a lot of importance to the word "photos". Every time an event is held, the organisers talk about how many foreign international players are coming, the advertisements emphasise the foreign participation and, of course, the Press does its bit for the organisers. The point one is trying to make is that why should we waste that just because they are foreigners they are good players. For Indians, a Korean, a Thai or a Chinese is as important as a Danish, a Chinese, and an Indonesian when it comes to badminton.

On July 17, S. K. Chadha, president of the second Indian Masters at Hyderabad and the secretary of the Badminton Association of India, announced that China and Denmark would not be sending their players. And yet an advertisement for sale of tickets appeared in national dailies on July 20 saying that China and Denmark were participating in the event. A few days later on August 1, another advertisement appeared and this time though China's name was removed, the name was still mentioned in the ad. Was this an attempt to induce people to buy tickets?

Are Indian officials satisfied with foreign participation at the Hyderabad event? It would seem so, because one BAI official is reported to have said, "At Hyderabad, we had 18 more foreigners than we had in Pune." Really enough, no one talked about the quality of the entry list.

Why are Indian officials sponsoring the foreigners? Is it because our officials want their names to be at the international level? The Indian Tennis Grand Prix was attracting world-class players and the Indian Masters badminton seems to be going the same way. Indian badminton is in a shambles.

HARESH MUNWANI

never full. On the first two days it was only about half full, the attendance improved on the third day and on the fourth and final days the stadium was almost full. It was discovered later that a large number of complimentary had been issued.

What kept the stars away? Well the Chinese for one were too busy practising at home for the Asian Games and did not want to be exposed. Or so we were told. However on closer scrutiny one found that the top Chinese players Han Jian Luan Jin Zheng Yuli are taking part in next month's International Championship at Kuala Lumpur. Won't they be exposed then? Ah but then they would not mind being exposed when 60,000 pounds sterling is at stake in prize money. Yes, that is the real reason why this year's championships attracted second and third ranking players.

The BAI had in fact asked the government to sanction £20,000 in foreign exchange for the prize money. But the government sanctioned only £14,000—the same amount as last year's. With badminton now obviously going the same way there has to be an increase every year otherwise the Indian Masters will just not be able to attract the top notchers in the world of badminton. Why even the Jakarta International which immediately followed the Hyderabad Masters offered prize money totalling £35,000 and naturally the top stars took part. If this very important financial aspect is not looked into the competition could very well die a quick death.

The fare itself was lucky of the mediocre variety. What little good badminton we saw was provided in some of the men's singles matches and a couple of men's doubles encounters. The women's singles were generally of a poor quality while the women's doubles and mixed double hardly evoked any interest.

At the outset Prakash Padukone must have been a half money favourite for the title with the bookmakers. And yet the top seed and defending champion did not even make it to the semi-final in a field of only 18 entries. The 27-year-old Indian maestro did not have time to fully exert himself in defeating K. C. of Japan 15-15 in only 25 minutes in his opening match. But surprisingly he came a cropper in his first match against Ipek Sugianto of Indonesia. The Indonesians have a high regard for Prakash and the shy 19-year-old Sugianto experienced that thrill on the third day of the championships. The Indian coach T. P. S. Prasad made an excuse for Prakash saying that he had not been practising. He paid very little credit to Sugianto. I am sure Prasad would find himself in a minority if votes were to be taken among all those who witnessed the hour-long quarter

final encounter Prakash, though certainly not at his best, did not play badly. He tried every trick in the game. He slowed the pace, prolonged the rallies, quickened the tempo, smashed accurately. But for whatever he did, Sugiarto had an answer. Displaying all the skill and charm that is so typical of the Indonesian game, Sugiarto just outwitted and outlasted the Indian ace. There was the cat-like agility, panther-like speed, remarkable reflexes, superb court coverage. But most amazing was his retrieving power. The manner in which he went headlong to take some of Prakash's shots was something almost unbelievable. He played Prakash at his own game and won—and he badly wanted to win both for his country and for himself. The Indonesians take a special pride in beating Prakash and then Sugiarto to himself had lost to the Indian on all the three occasions they had met. No wonder then that he clasped his 12-15, 15-2, 15-4 victory as 'The greatest in my career'.

In many ways, this was the match of the event. But there were at least two or three other encounters that deserve special mention. The Karlsson-Baddeley quarter final was one such. A keen match was on the cards and it certainly lived up to expectations. Neither is a touch artist like Prakash. The Swede and the Englishman are exponents of the European power game. What one saw during the 41 minutes match was attack and counter attack. The left handed Stephen Baddeley kills with awesome power but then not behind in any way is the blonde 26 year-old Stefan Karlsson. The Swede won the first game 15-4, only to surrender the second at the same score. In the decider, Karlsson trailed 3-7, levelled at that score and thereafter the rallies were close, and the issue hung in the balance till almost the end. Finally, Karlsson who possessed that little extra, raised the level of his game and emerged victorious. It was a great personal triumph for Karlsson who, being essentially a doubles player, had never before reached the semi-final in a singles event anywhere in the world.

Karlsson had earlier too been involved in a fascinating duel for supremacy with India's Uday Pawar. He won the first game 15-5 and Pawar took the second 15-8. The decider was one of the best games seen in the tournament. For both quality and the closeness of the contest, it provided some of the most enjoyable moments in the five day championships. It was a test of nerves and stamina rather than skill and in these two qualities the Swede had the advantage.

All these three matches involved contestants in the top half of the draw. If the bottom half did not serve up anything so keen and exciting it only showed to what extent Lau-

Pongoh dominated it. The three opponents the 26-year-old Indonesian happened to meet in reaching the final were all Indians. And one by one he made short work of them using basically one stroke—the smash.

For sheer raw, awesome naked power, Pongoh's smashing was the talking point of the tournament. Maybe he also possessed the more subtle skills that go with the Indonesian game, but there was hardly an opportunity to see them. First, Pongoh dismissed Vikram Singh 15-2, 15-2 in 22 minutes; he took a little longer to destroy Partho Ganguly 15-4, 15-5 in the quarter final. And then in the semi final he simply demolished Sved Modi 15-5, 15-0 in just 19 minutes. Modi had earlier defeated Thomas Kilhstrom of Sweden 15-8, 15-9 and altogether had looked so impressive that one looked forward—justifiably as we thought—to wresting a game off Pongoh as it transpired his challenge was the most fragile.

A Prakash Pongoh final which was what the draw indicated would have provided a fine climax and at least done something to the reputation of the tournament.

As it turned out, a final between two Indonesians just could not tickle one's fancy. It was bound to lack the intensity of the contest which always prevails when the combatants are from two different countries. Still a battle between Pongoh and Sugiarto was obviously going to epitomise a tussle between power and subtlety.

Instead it turned out to be a most unexciting encounter and one that seemed to be the most fitting climax (if one can use that word) to a generally lack lustre tournament. Pongoh hardly unleashed his famous smash and in fact did not seem to be even interested in doing so. From Sugiarto we saw little of the skill and courtcraft that saw him overcome Prakash only 48 hours before.

The players exchanged long and boring rallies that frequently had the crowd jeering. At least the first game was close (15-12). In the second as well, the contest was missing (15-5) and in 35 minutes, it must be recorded for posterity's sake, Pongoh won to take the title. One would not go so far to say that it was a farce or that it left a bad taste in one's mouth. But it must be said that it was not the final one anticipated.

Asian participants outnumbered Europeans by three to one in the tournament (27 to 9). But the men's singles title was the only one that the Asians could claim. The Europeans won all the other four titles with considerable ease. In the women's singles, Yoshiko Yonekura of Japan was the top seed and favourite for the title, but the winner was Jane Webster, a 26 year-old bank employee from London.

Frankly, this did come as a sur-

prise. For one thing, in matches leading up to the final, Yonekura looked the more accomplished player. Secondly, Webster survived many anxious moments in both her quarter final and semi-final matches. She was actually close to defeat in both matches.

In her first outing, she lost the first game 4-11, to A. Tokuda of Japan. She then won the second only by the skin of her teeth (12-9), but then went on to claim the decider easily 11-3. She survived an even closer encounter in her semi final with K. Jinnai also of Japan. Again Webster lost the first game 9-1 and this time she trailed badly (5-8) in the second. Three points away from victory, Jinnai faltered.

Webster took six straight points to take the game and draw level. In the decider again Jinnai led 6-4. Thereafter Webster again rallied, allowed Jinnai only one point, took seven herself, won the game 11-7 and made a most unexpected and dramatic entry into the final.

Having survived all these close shaves Webster's nerves had obviously been steelled for the final. And she played a very clever tactical game against Yonekura. Noticing that the 24 year old Japanese woman relished a fast tempo, Webster slowed the game down, kept the rallies going and waited for the impatient Yonekura to make the mistake. This strategy paid off and the Japanese, unable to counter it, went down tamely 3-11, 5-11 in 20 minutes.

But for Prakash's shock defeat, the Indian challenge in the men's division more or less accomplished what it was expected of them. It was not just the fact that they did not get through even their opening round, for that was bad enough. What was worse was the manner in which they lost. There was just no pattern, no system, no strategy, no planning. They just played in some haphazard fashion, and went down without a semblance of a fight.

Vandana Chipalkar lost to Yanthi Kusmiati of Indonesia 7-11, 2-11. National champion Madhumita Goswami played in a crazy slam-bang fashion, hitting out anything and everything and was defeated easily by Tokuda. Ami Ghia, not having recovered fully from the ankle injury sustained at the Udaipur camp, was forced to withdraw. Hrishikesh Nariman was beaten 1-11, 7-11 by Yonekura. Ameeta Kulkarni brought a bit of credit to the squad by being the only one to take a game. She extended Budhiarti of Indonesia before losing 7-11, 11-6, 4-11. The Indian girls were found wanting in skill and stamina.

One shudders at the thought of the feeble challenge that the girls will be putting up at the Asian Games. Perhaps Ami Ghia, if fully recovered, can put up a fight. But one would have to be unduly optimis-



Indonesia's Sugiarto outsmarted defending champion Prakash Padukone in the quarters

tic to expect any of the others to proceed very far. I say this in spite of the fact that a second camp is going on at Udaipur and in the face of coach Puri's optimism.

For sheer aesthetic pleasure, the best fare was provided in some of the men's doubles matches. There was at least one very good match and one that was simply excellent. The former tie was the semi final between Billy Gilliland and Dick Travers and the Koreans Joo Bong Park and Eun Ku Lee. The Koreans came to Hyderabad with the reputation of having reached the semi finals at the all-England championships and subsequently having won the Danish Open title. In a fine match, the Asian pair defeated the Europeans 15-7, 15-6 and 15-7. The only aspect missing was a keen contest. Otherwise, the match had everything that badminton has to offer. The rallies were, close and exciting.

The excellent match followed immediately after this. The crowd actually were eagerly looking forward to this other semi final. An encounter between the top Euro-

pean pair and the top Asian pair gives every indication of being a thriller.

The match between Kihlstrom and Karlsson and Haryanto exceeded even the highest expectations. It was played at a pace which was fast even by modern standards. At times the rallies were so quick that the shuttle was just a blur. There was little to choose from between the two pairs as in everything—reflexes, court craft, speed, power—they were so obviously matched. Some of the rallies had the spectators howling with delight or standing up to applaud.

Even the result (the Swedes won 6-15, 18-15, 15-12) hardly seemed to matter. One just wished that the match would go on and on. It was this game that put Kihlstrom and Karlsson high on the list of popular players on view and they were the most sought after by autograph hunters.

The final of the men's doubles too promised to be a fine match. Unfortunately the Koreans could not recapture their magic that saw them register that splendid victory in the

semi final. Their fantastic reflexes, which more than anything else saw them score that triumph, were hardly in evidence. And Kihlstrom and Karlsson coasted to a 15-10, 15-12 win to claim the title. The Swedes had beaten the Korean pair in the Swedish Open earlier this year.

Little need be said of the women's doubles and mixed doubles events. The only interest was whether Jane Webster would claim a treble. She was in line for it, having entered all three finals. But she had to remain satisfied with the women's singles title. She and Karen Chapman lost 1-15, 8-15 to Gillian Gilks and Gillian Clarke.

Paired with Thomas Kihlstrom, she lost the mixed doubles final too, going down 14-18, 11-15 to Gillian and Karen Chapman. India's role in these events too was rather restricted, though Kanwal Thakur Singh and Leroy D'Sa put up a good show in the latter event. They defeated Karlsson and Gillian Clarke 18-15, 15-12 before going down in the semi final to the Gillian Chapman pairing 10-15, 6-15.

The court jester

If there was a prize for the most popular player in the Indian Master's Open Badminton Tournament at Hyderabad, it would have been awarded almost unanimously to Thomas Kilhstrom. To a game which seems to be dominated by serious players, the 33-year-old balding Swede brought a rare touch of humour. He was indeed the joker in the pack.

The experienced Swedish star had the crowd roaring with delight often with his timely and intelligent antics on court and these he freely indulged in whether he was losing or winning. For example, during his men's singles quarter-final match with Syed Modi (which he lost badly) he essayed a net dribble but the shuttle just kissed the top of the net and came down on his side. Kilhstrom let go a little cry of anguish and pointed to the shuttle as if to say, "How can you let me down like this?"

During the same encounter, Kilhstrom was the victim of what seemed to him at least bad calls by a linesman. After a couple of such decisions, he received a favourable one from the same gentleman and amidst a great howl of laughter bowed reverently to him.

Two other gestures became typical of him. One was the manner in which he attempted to blow at the shuttle when it was going out or when it was known that it would land near the sideline. The other was when he frequently used his racket like a music conductor in an attempt to quieten the noisy section of the crowd.

But perhaps his best act of humour came after his marathon doubles semi-final match against the Indonesian duo of Karyono and Haryanto. Visibly tired he carried as many as four bottles of soft drinks in his hands and made his way to the dressing room. A young boy picked this ticklish moment to ask him for his autograph. Instead of making a sarcastic remark or reprimanding the lad, Kilhstrom—a born comedian—made as if to take the pen and write with his mouth. Once again, there were peals of laughter all around.

Puri: Judge us at the Asiad

TPS PURI, the chief coach of the Indian badminton squad at the Asian Games coaching camp at Udaipur, was the manager of the team that participated in the Master's at Hyderabad. *Sportsworld* asked him to assess the performance of the Indians.

SW: Are you satisfied with the show of the Indian players?

Puri: By and large it was a satisfactory performance though, because of Prakash's defeat, some adverse com-

ments will undoubtedly be heard. I don't think we did badly because we were not expected to do any better. Modi was expected to reach the semi-final and he did so. No one else was expected to go any further than what they did. It is true that the girls might have disappointed but then again they were not expected to do any better. We suffered a heavy blow with Ami Ghia not being able to take part. Had she been able to play, she might have made the final.

SW: What are your comments on Prakash's defeat?

Puri: I would say that Sugiarto was probably lucky to catch Prakash when the latter was not playing very well. Just a couple of months before, Prakash had beaten Sugiarto easily. I would not say that Sugiarto played extremely well for his victory. Also one must remember that Prakash did not have much practice before the Masters.



SW: But he came to the camp at Udaipur?

Puri: Yes, but that was only for about ten days and that too at my request. Which brings me to the point that one should not judge either Prakash's performance or the team's showing by what happened. You must remember that the Udaipur coaching camp is for training our team for the Asian Games, not the Master's. The players have not peaked yet. You must judge our performance in the Asian Games. And Prakash should be judged by his performance at Kuala Lumpur in September and by his show in the Master's Tournament in London after that. Don't only judge us by our performance at Hyderabad.

SW: Did any Indian performance exceed your expectations?

Puri: Yes, I am particularly pleased at the way our doubles teams (both women's and mixed) fared.

SW: In short, you mean we can expect a much better performance

from the Indian players at the Asian Games.

Puri: Definitely.

Shamateurism?

Current indications are that it is highly unlikely that Prakash Padukone will get to play in the Asian Games. The controversy surfaced about a month ago when it was known that Prakash, being a licensed player, may have trouble in qualifying for the Asian Games. There has always been some confusion as to whether the licensed player is a pro or an amateur—or neither.

The International Badminton Federation (IBF) ruled last month that Prakash could take part. But since this is the Asian Games, it has become more a matter for the Asian Games Federation to decide. The AGF is in a quandary since Prakash is the only licensed player in this continent, while the rule regarding such players was brought in essentially to help Europeans.

Mr Fazil Ahmed, President of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) initially, seemed optimistic. He said that if Prakash could be termed a pro then the age-old rule states that amateurs who play against pros also become pros should apply. In effect, he pointed out, players who have opposed Prakash on court will also be ineligible to take part in the Asian Games. He even indicated that Prakash could be included in the team for the Asiad. Then if the AGF ruled against Prakash or if the other players kicked up a ruckus, he could even seek a court order restraining them also from taking part. But he hoped that an amicable solution would be found.

A few days later, during the tournament, when this correspondent cornered Mr Ahmed on the issue again, he was no more optimistic. "It is a lost cause", he said. "Our case is very weak." He remarked dejectedly. Mr Ahmed said that on this issue it was of no advantage that the Asian Games were being held in India. "On the contrary, it may be said to be disadvantageous for we may have to show courtesy to our guests and avoid any controversial issue."

This correspondent told him that there was enough confusion in the world of sport with just two categories—amateurs and professionals, and this had led to a new phrase—shamateurism. The licensed player having caused more confusion, could not the category be abolished?

Mr Ahmed said that this was not possible since "The IBF is dominated by Europe and everything is done to favour their players. Each badminton body in Europe would like their players to benefit monetarily as much as possible."

PARTAB RAMCHAND



JANE WEBSTER
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

HOLMES : LOOKING FOR RESPECT

GEORGE K. GEORGE examines what the future holds for the WBC Heavyweight Champion

ONE of the most popular night club comedians of the United States, Rodney Dangerfield makes his money by playing on his theme "I don't get no respect." Rodney has been making a fortune with that line for decades.

If Larry Holmes could borrow that line, it would give him a perfect slogan. After defending his world heavyweight championship for the twelfth time and compiling an impressive 40-0 unbeaten record, he is still mourning "I don't get no respect."

No other heavyweight has achieved these two feats. Nor has anyone held the title so long. Even after the long-awaited victory over the Great White Hope (according to Holmes, "Dope") Gerry Cooney, his first words were "soul."

"I feel good because I achieved something again," he said as he opened his remarks after the title fight against Cooney. "I proved all the critics wrong, even my supposedly best friends wouldn't stick with me in my career. They had seen an opportunity to take a shot at me, so they did, because they felt somebody was going to take my place. I understand business. But I don't feel business is good when you mess around with people's lives. My dream always came true. I dreamed that I'd be the heavyweight champion of the world. I am the heavyweight champion of the world. I hope Gerry Cooney knows now who Larry Holmes is."

What, Mr. Holmes. Which critics did you prove wrong? Almost every boxing expert had predicted your victory. Who's messing around with your life? Who denied that you are the champion of the world? Why this explosion? After an exciting 10-million-dollar war? Don't sound like a soul loser, but talk like a champion.

The fact is that Larry Holmes cannot. He is paranoid. He suffers from some kind of persecution complex. He feels insecure as a champion. After every win, he still feels the urge to prove himself. It seems like every time I go on the stage, I have to continue to prove myself,"

he added at the same Press conference.

"I'm sorry I'm not Muhammad Ali, I'm not Joe Louis, I'm not Leon Spinks. I can't continue to prove myself again and again. I wasn't born to be those people. I was born to be myself, Larry Holmes."

The tragedy of Larry Holmes is that he just cannot live according to that fact, which he admits verbally. For a long time, he tried to act and talk like Ali, for whom he worked as a sparring partner. Though he had excellent boxing skills, he did not have the charisma of Muhammad Ali.

All his life, Larry Holmes wanted only one thing other than the heavyweight championship of the world to be the people's champion. He has proclaimed himself in that capacity after every victory. But no one apart from himself and his patron Don King has called him by that title.

After beating Cooney, Holmes would say "The hype is over and what is left is that I proved that I'm the people's champion and a fighting champion. I never neglected anyone who was a legitimate contender. I gave all the fighters a chance to take my title away." An obvious dig at Ali, who did not offer him a fight for a long time. Finally when Ali did condescend to fight Holmes, he was already on the verge of yet another retirement.

A fighting champion, yes. But the people's champion? "You must say that acceptance is there," said Don King. "But if it isn't, respect is. You have to say that he proved beyond a shadow of doubt that he is a champion. A champion, but more than that, a people's champion." Don King must be kidding. He is forgotten the chant "Ali, Ali" during the Ali-Holmes fight. Didn't he hear the "boos" that greeted Holmes as he stepped into the ring at Caesar's Palace a few days ago to defend his title against Cooney? Did the crowd ever chant "Holmes" even once? Did he hear all the "Tuck, Tuck" and "Cooney, Cooney" chants even in the Don King country of Las Vegas?

King must have seen the rousing

welcome that awaited Cooney on his return to New York. One has never seen such an enthusiastic ovation for a loser. Even in the television interviews after the bout, Holmes has been repeating his "no respect" chorus. And that is not helping his image at all as champ.

In fact, Larry Holmes deserves a little more respect. He did not deserve the boos at Las Vegas. He is certainly more than a shadow of Muhammad Ali and a precursor of Gerry Cooney. Cooney is the public's favourite despite defeat and a rather dismal track record.

Somehow he lacks the chemistry of a popular champion. Even Leon "Neon" Spinks seems to have enjoyed more popularity in his championship day. After imitating Ali for a while, Holmes tried to project himself as a clean, simple human being and an ideal family man.

"Larry is basically a simple guy," says his mouthpiece Don King. "He lives modestly, he still lives in the same town, he doesn't have a big head, he's not a publicity hound. The trouble is that Gerry Cooney is all this and more."

"He doesn't like to get his pictures on magazine covers," adds King. But at the post-fight conference, Holmes took a jab at the magazines. "You can take *Sports Illustrated* and shove it," he said. "You can take *Time* magazine and shove it. It's not 'Larry Who?' any more. It's Larry Holmes, heavyweight champion of the world."

Both magazines had featured Cooney on the cover. *Sports Illustrated* wanted both fighters to appear together on its cover. The photographer wanted Cooney on the left side and Holmes felt that the left side belonged to the champ. *Time* featured Cooney with filmstar Sylvester Stallone.

Holmes is also evidently annoyed at the fact that Cooney and even his mother are getting some television commercials. Actually, a number of white sportsmen have got TV commercials. But so did a number of blacks. Sugar Ray Leonard and his little son have appeared in several popular commercials. It is also a

question of the promoter's ability to get the extra income for their fighters

The champion was not at all happy about the parity of pay in the recent bout. He says that in the event of a rematch, he would demand at least 10 dollars more. Holmes wanted more money than the challenger. But Cooney's management wouldn't settle for anything less. Don King says that he convinced Larry "he can make more money with Cooney at parity than he can with any other fighter."

King was quite right. The fight broke all previous records. At Madison Square Garden, New York, it collected over one million dollars in closed circuit revenues. Holmes couldn't have done that with any other opponent.

According to King, Holmes had another motive in fighting Cooney on parity. "He wants to strike a blow for the little man, for the proletariat of the world." The trouble is that the young construction worker, the son of a blue collar worker of New York is as much part of the proletariat as the son of a sharecropper from Pennsylvania.

Besides, the public is not as stupid as Don King thinks. It may not be very moved by the magnanimity of a millionaire who demands 10 million dollars for a fight. It is a shame that the proletariat cannot afford the minimum 30 dollar closed circuit television fee imposed by Don King's company, to watch the great fight undertaken on its behalf.

As the little man's hero image does

not work, Holmes tries to project himself as an example for the whole world. "It's what you do outside that makes you a champion," he says. "Leon Spinks got drunk and got arrested. Set a bad example. You don't hear things like that about me. I set good examples for Boys Clubs. I give talks to many white organizations. I feel good about me."

In spite of all his boasting about himself, even Muhammad Ali never sounded so self-righteous. Statements like this only take away the dignity that Larry Holmes has. Suddenly he is being overshadowed by a challenger who lives a dignified life. Cooney also is a family oriented person.

The two men met for the first time in a restaurant in Mexico City during a convention. Holmes started the exchange.

"You're stupid for a white boy." "Who are you? Who are you?" quipped Cooney.

"Everybody knows who I am," replied Holmes.

"Who are you," Cooney. "I am the heavyweight champion of the world," said Holmes.

"You need me more than I do. Don't forget that," Cooney reminded.

And they were at each other's throats in a moment. WBC president Jose Suliman who tried to break it up, got a bloody nose. But the fight was prevented for the time being.

Incidents like this created a lot of animosity between the two. Cooney feels that Holmes does not behave like a champ. He has no admiration

for a champion who talks like a punk, he says.

Larry Holmes is one of the best fighters of this century. He may even be remembered as one of the top ten in boxing history. But he doesn't seem to be cut out to be the "People's Champion."

In spite of all his skills, he lacks one thing—class.

At this point, Larry Holmes does not know what to do next. He still feels that he has something to prove. What it is, he is not sure. He would certainly like a rematch with Cooney. No other opponent could bring so much money and publicity. Or he could take on Mike Weaver and unify the WBA and WBC heavyweight championships of the world and retire as the undisputed champion of the world. He will be the first undefeated champion of boxing history.

He could also fight one of the other contenders like Michael Dokes, a very talented young man who holds the No. 2 challenger spot. Or he could have a rematch with Trevor Berbick, the only man to go all the way with Holmes in a title defence. Berbick, who put Ali's illusions of another comeback to rest, is a black boxer from Canada. He fought as an undercard before the Cooney-Holmes fight and knocked out promising Greg Page with an impressive performance. Page, who had an unbeaten record till then, could be another opponent Holmes could consider.

Or at 32 he could take his millions and return to Easton, his home town and call it quits and be remembered by history as the undefeated heavyweight champion of the world. No one has held the title for such a long spell since the long reign of Joe Louis. But the money and the urge to prove himself may not keep Holmes going.

His patron Don King has certain grand schemes. He also controls Dokes. Will he match the two at the risk of Larry Holmes being beaten by the youngster? Or will he match Holmes against Weaver, unify the titles and then reschedule Cooney-Holmes II?

Don't be surprised if King tries both. First, Holmes vs Dokes, then Holmes vs Weaver, and then a rematch for Cooney. That will make him the undisputed promoter and biggest money-maker in recent boxing history. Holmes will have the satisfaction of offering Dokes a chance. He wouldn't like to be accused of avoiding Dokes.

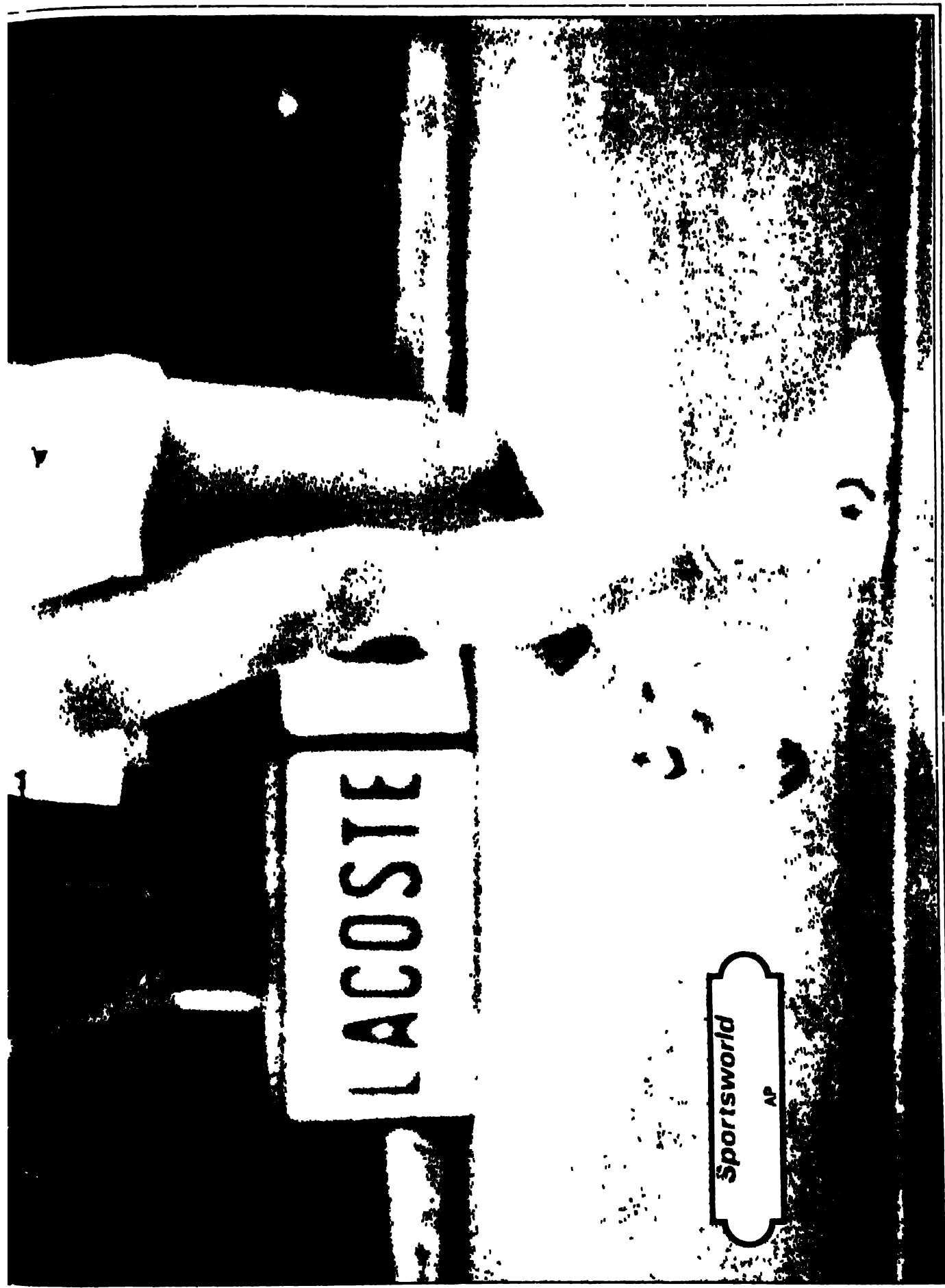
But three such fights could be a little too much for Holmes. All these three men are dangerous. Weaver and Cooney are going to make the mistakes in their second meeting with Holmes.

Hey, Holmes. Just forget Rodney Dangerfield, take Woody Allen's advice—Take the money and run.

Larry Holmes, the champion boxer







Sportsworld
AP

McEnroe should win again this time

GEORGE K. GEORGE previews the U.S. Open tennis tournament

ON 30 August the caravan will move into Flushing Meadows. The richest pasture of tennis will wait with a \$1,200,000 in prize money. There is hardly any meadow there if you look for the real green. In fact it is 16-acre and eight storied tennis stadium housing the national tennis centre. The courts layered with deco turf instead of traditional grass and on top it there will be 20,000 screaming fans, at least, on the last two days. The planes landing at Laguardia Airport, the New York subway trains and the noisy Long Island railroad will combine to provide the strangest orchestration of roars blending with the loud chants and screams of the players.

In short, it will be the opposite of Wimbledon every way. The Louis Armstrong stadium at the Flushing Meadows Park in New York City has very little tradition. It has been staged the tournament only for the last four years. Forest Hills having the honour of being the home of the U.S. Open till 1978. Congestion went along with the latter and it had to

give way to the space by Flushing Meadows.

The one man, who would love to be there more than anybody else in the whole world will be missing. The Meadows will miss him as much as he will miss it. Bjorn Borg will have to wait another year for the only eluding dream of his life.

Next to Borg there are only two other people who would give their lives so to say, for this year's Open Titles. Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova. Perhaps the only remaining ambition in Connors' life is to regain the U.S. Open, his favourite title and then keep playing tennis for sheer enjoyment and money. Similarly, Martina Navratilova, a strong American at heart, would love to capture the Open. This tournament has meant a lot of memories for her. It was during this tournament that she defeated Agneta, last year, the Open was the turning point in her career as Renee Richards took over as her coach then. For Navratilova the most opportune moment to win the title was last year just after she

had gained her long awaited U.S. citizenship. But in the final set, Tracy Austin destroyed that dream. But the standing ovation that the crowd gave her after it, endeared her to the tournament and its crowd.

A week ago, I would have foreseen Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova as the possible winners. With the quality of tennis today and the minute gap between the top men and women players, it is really ridiculous to make predictions. Still, Martina holds the trump card for this year's Open and should win the title she so richly deserves. She will have an added motivation this year as this will be the last major hurdle between her and the Grand Slam. With the support of Richards and her friend Nancy Lieberman, Martina is bound to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Before the Canadian Open which concluded on 15 August, Connors looked well set for the U.S. Title. He beat Borg in the two exhibition games they played and it was not that Borg, who was rusty from the long hiatus, had played badly. In fact, he had played brilliantly. But Jimmy Connors came back from Wimbledon with that extra edge that was needed to dispose off the great Swede. Connors also beat Brian Gottfried in the finals at Columbus, Ohio, to claim the only tournament he played since Wimbledon to bring the tally of his Grand Prix wins to six this year.

In the Canadian Open he withdrew from his semi-final match against Vitas Gerulaitis. From the beginning of the tournament at Toronto, he had suffered from a strep throat and a sore back but won his four matches comfortably. His withdrawal was a surprise to the tournament organisers. A win over Lendl, who had beaten McEnroe, in the other semi-final could have been the best boost for Connors before the tournament in New York. But on the other hand, there was no point in playing against Gerulaitis or Lendl without being in shape. Such a loss could have been demoralising. Personally, I think the default at Toronto is going to cost Connors the U.S. Open title as it is a definite edge for Lendl to avoid a clash with him.

It would be wonderful if Connors won this title for one last time. He deserves it. But I am afraid that the title is going to be bagged by either John McEnroe or Ivan Lendl. The

McEnroe



pressures of having been at Wimbledon are also going to affect his performance. But a lot will depend on his physical condition. If he is in a peak condition, he could still pull it off.

Lendl took McEnroe apart in the Toronto semi-final with some brutal ground strokes. He broke him thrice to score a 6-4, 6-4 win and McEnroe could break his service only once. Lendl says that last winter he made it his main goal to beat McEnroe and practised intensely to face left-handers. "Before, I couldn't even touch his serve," says Lendl. "But in the winter I practised two to three hours a day with a few left-handers who would serve and volley against me."

"I have learned that a good return is the key to how to beat him. I used to watch tapes of our matches, but I learned that you cannot read his serve from his body because he turns his back to you. You have to watch the ball."

There was one incident in their last clash that should provide a shock treatment for John McEnroe. There was a gesture of utter contempt from Lendl and the former is not the type that forgets such things easily. It came immediately after Lendl's first break in the seventh game of the first set. As Lendl led 4-3, McEnroe was holding a break point. Although he had the entire cross-court area open to place his shot, Lendl drove the ball directly down the line at McEnroe's body. A quick move saved McEnroe from the fierce forehand and the ball jumped crazily out his racket.

McEnroe was evidently shaken up. "He's done this to me in the past," he said. "I didn't expect him to apologise to me because when you're deliberately going for someone, it would be rubbing it in to say you're sorry afterwards." Lendl's reaction was as incisive as the shot. "Nobody asked him to come to the net anyway."

John McEnroe was not a sore loser. "I can think of 15 excuses, but right now I have no claim to be the number one player in the world with the way I played," he said. "I was not playing with the intensity I need to beat him. I have to be into it more."

Although Lendl has conceded only one set to him in their last five encounters, John McEnroe will be able to "put more into it" in his own backyard. It is true that he has been sluggish even before Wimbledon. Things have not improved since either. His physical condition is not at its peak. He seems to have lost his appetite, too. But the Toronto experience should provide him the incentive. McEnroe is too much of a professional to let himself slip at the best years of his life.

While his track record in the Canadian Open is not so great, it is fantastic at the U.S. Open. In 1979 he beat Connors in the semis and Gerulaitis in the finals. In the following



Martina Navratilova

year he repeated the semi-final win over 'Junbo' and conquered Borg. Last year, he steered past Gerulaitis before overcoming Borg who had beaten Connors on his way to the finals. Though he was trailing against Juan Nunez and Ramesh Krishnan in the early matches, he came true at the critical moments and hung in there. He should do the same this year.

Ivan Lendl is a blazing fire right now and can, thus, consume most players. He does not defeat them, he just destroys. Still, I wonder if the time has come for Lendl to win the Open. Personally, I don't think so. It is almost insane to make such an assertion as aforementioned but I would stick to it.

The Lendl-McEnroe-Connors triangle and their animosity for one another will make the men's competition exciting and fierce. I cannot imagine anyone else as a top contender, except, perhaps, Vitas Gerulaitis, another local boy. If there is one major tournament that he should and could win to make the future generations recognise him, it is the U.S. Open. He is so greatly talented, but his free spirit almost always prevails over the athlete in him.

The sensation of the pre-Wimbledon season, Guillermo Vilas who won the U.S. Open in 1977 by beating Connors, is in a very bad slump now. His loss against Wilander at the French Open seems to have hurt him much. Recently, he lost an early round match in the U.S. clay court championship to another Swede, Hans Simonson (20). Nor

can I imagine other clay court specialists like Jose Luis Clerc and Jose Higuera making their way into the finals at the Meadows.

It will be too much to expect major upsets from Gene Meyer, Brian Teacher, Eliot Teltscher, Eddie Dibbs or Gottfried. Only Tanner still seems to have the resources for something like that. I would expect more from younger American players, especially Jimmy Arias who just turned 18, the mighty Chip Hooper and Tim Mayotte.

Of course, then there is Mats Wilander of Sweden. He is in a slump, too. At present, the youngster is going through the most difficult period of adjustment that no tennis player in recent history has experienced. He needs time to pull another major victory. The U.S. Open title seems a little too much too soon for young Wilander.

In the women's section the two legitimate contenders besides Martina seem to be Chris Evert Lloyd, an 11-time semi-finalist and the reigning champion Tracy Austin. The young Californian, who had a poor Wimbledon, is working like a maniac to defend her title though her physical condition still looks suspect. It looks very improbable for her to repeat last year's last comeback. Martina Navratilova is too strong, mentally and physically and unfortunately Tracy Austin is terribly out to practice to cope with her.

Chris Lloyd will be Navratilova's major hurdle and it looks as if she is the only one who can stop the Wimbledon champ. Remember, last year what Evert did to Mandlikova at Wimbledon? The youngster had humiliated her at the French Open. Chris Lloyd just blew the kid off at Wimbledon. Navratilova better be prepared for such a revenge. The only ingredient that is missing in Chris now, Martina has in plenty: desire. That might make all the difference this time.

Andrea Jaeger and Pam Shriver will also do their part. Zina Garrison and Kathy Rinaldi will steal the attention of the crowd as they did at Wimbledon while Hana Mandlikova seems to be lost somewhere along the way. Wonder if she herself knows where.

The U.S. Open is an incredible experience. Stars folk together for the tournament of the champions at Forest Hills and at the Masters in the Madison Square Garden, too. But things just don't happen there. Champions are born at places like Wimbledon and the Flushing Meadows. It is competitive tennis in its most off-beat form. Purists of the game hate the night matches under floodlights, the bouncy fast artificial surface, the noise that surrounds the stadium and the unorthodox crowd which may look almost uncouth to British tennis fans. Well, that is professional tennis today, tennis as a spectator sport.



CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Disgrace in defeat

EAST BENGAL: With their goal—the league championship—drawing near, the home team looked bubbling with confidence and determined to remove whatever obstacle was still standing in their way. And Tollygunge Agra-gami was, indeed, thought to be a hard nut to crack. But the proceedings did not seem to be as tough for East Bengal as it was anticipated to be, with the Agra-gami players failing to live up to the expectations both in the defence and offence. On the other hand, East Bengal made it a point to maintain good coordination between the half liners and the forwards, the lack of which has proved a constant source of trouble for them throughout the league championship. Moreover, the deep defenders also were always forthcoming to help their colleagues upfield bring variation in the attacks.

The result was a number of well concerted attacks which could have made East Bengal's margin of victory much bigger than mere goal, but for Arup Das's poor marksmanship. However, it was he who scored the all important goal, for his side, but the chances he missed were only to be seen to be believed. Twice he hit the crosspiece, the second time from about two yards only.

On the other hand very little effort was there on the part of the Agra-gami players to come back into the game. Though on a few occasions they came quite close to the striking range, never did they look serious enough to create really dangerous situations for the East Bengal custodian Biswajit Das.

On the East Bengal side, the player who tried sincerely to improve his performance, which did not reach the expected heights in a few matches previously was Kartick Seta. He positioned himself well, whenever the situation required him to and essayed a number of clever passes from the flank. And it was from one such centre from Kartick that Arup could clinch the issue for his side.

MOHAMMEDAN S C The incorrigible supporters once again gave vent to their cowardly feelings when linesman Bimar Chakraborty was a victim of stone-throwing from the green galleries during the home team's encounter with Aryan. But the home team's club officials and players were prompt in giving first aid to the linesman. What followed thereafter was history. With a bandaged head the linesman was reluctant to wave the flag from the green stands and chose to do duty with his other colleague from the same side.

Ridiculous this. One can come to the conclusion that pleas from club officials and even police action means little to these fanatics. The outcome is that they have earned a very bad reputation this season where hooliganism is concerned.

Having already lost two matches—against East Bengal and Railway I C being awarded full points by the I A league subcommittee—a third defeat would be too much for the black-and-whites. The match was tense and there was a general feeling that it would not end. But young Amitava Roy did a wonderful job and even went to the extent of booking two Mohammedan S C players. Debasis Roy was shown the yellow card for arguing with the referee which means that Debasis will not be able to play in the next match as he was booked in the earlier tie against Mohun Bagan. Satyajit Mitra was also booked for hard tackling. Referee Amitava Roy needs to be applauded for keeping things under control in his first big match.

If the home side lost it was partly their fault. They have now lost eight points so far. This match was a real study in contrast. Their brilliant performance against Mohun Bagan three days ago was a complete reversal against Aryan. One would not believe that it was the 'hangover' but more the lack lustre and inconsistency that irritated the fans. It was pointless to have fielded indisposed Majid and Moidul, though the latter negated some of the dangerous moves by the Aryan forwards while Majid was bottled up by stopper Jaydeb Chakraborty. But on the whole both sides performed lackadaisically. But the Aryan boys had better share of the exchanges giving the home defence a trying time. Aryan could have taken the lead in the first half but Moidul averted an open chance. Midway through the second half Aryan scored the all important goal through Subhas Modak. Mohammedan S C too had their chance prior to conceding the goal when Soimenath Banerjee put the ball into the Aryan net but the referee disallowed it because Banerjee had fouled custodian Lakhan Belei. The goal seemed to be a controversial one because when Mori Singh essayed the centre the ball was handled by Moidul and the advantage rule was perhaps applied. A cool Modak made no mistake. But Moidul cleared all doubts about the goal by saying after the match that he had not handled the ball.

But there was one man who was extremely happy. Aryan coach Ramdas. It was sweet revenge for Aryan as they lost by an identical margin last season. "I just can't express myself. I am really thrilled by this triumph," said Ramdas.

**SUBHASH SARCAR and
SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL**

Mohammedan Sporting versus Aryan in which the latter won.



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down, the excitement is over, the tension is slackened and the minds of the winners are happy. Now there is peace everywhere. No thunderous roars, no noise of cricketers, no brickbattering and no stomping of the fresh innocent grass under the harsh iron shoes of the police horse—only calm, calm, calm all over. Now only lambs will graze, vagabonds will wander about and for the next few weeks the vast greens of maidan will be relaxing to the sweet lullaby of the monsoon wind. A short cool nap before the IFA shield battles begin.

In the last two weeks a mood of holiday had descended on all the camps which were only a few days ago alive with footballing activities through the most part of the day. Practice went on in full swing, the veterans, the authority-wielders, sat in frequent conferences to discuss and invent newer and newer strategies to ensure success; newsmen hovered around in search of opportunities to become Bob Woodward or Karl Barnsteins and as usual the omnipresent creatures on earth called 'chamcha' were always there hanging around the big bosses to devour the leftovers on their masters' lunch plates.

In fact, this year there has been a noticeable in-

Maidan musings

crease in the number of sycophants in the three big clubs, especially East Bengal. Always boastful of their high connections, these pitiable creatures behave as if they were the de facto rulers of their organizations. Far from that, the truth is, they are mostly self-seekers at the expense of the club's interest. But they manage to hide their actual motives by doing a lot running-about and thus showing how enthusiastic they are about their clubs' well-being. But the result in most cases has been the players have often found it difficult to breathe freely, undisturbed by these over-zealous 'well-wishers'.

Anyway, picking up the thread from where we made a brief digression, with the league issues almost decided, most of the teams slackened their belts a bit, though a number of engagements were still there to be played. East Bengal, sure of their success which they were deprived of for a number of years, were busy chalking out their plans for the victory celebrations and a visit to the tent always held the possibility of being treated to a plate or two of sweetmeat. In the Mohammedan Sporting camp the atmosphere was one of despair with most of the players in a going-home frame of mind—probably the main reason for

their further disgrace at the hands of Aryans.

But sweating was very much on in the Mohun Bagan ground. The successful can spend a minute or two in relaxation, the hopeless can give up. But for the ones who could have averted their failure, not a minute is there which they can afford to waste.

The hawk-eyed guest

THE protagonists and prompters of the soccer drama of the city have fallen victim to a strange disease of late. By the former I mean those famous people who actually enact the plays on the grounds and the latter undoubtedly stands for their guardians—the big shots of the various clubs—who pull the threads from behind the stage and decide which side the tide should turn.

These days members of both these clans are suffering from an ailment, called media-shyness. Normally known as publicity-seekers, they have suddenly developed an aversion towards the Press. The reason, perhaps, is the lack-lustre performances put up by their boys in the current league. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the standards of football displayed this year were terribly dis-

appointing to many, especially the knowledgeable connoisseurs, who have memories of much superior class of ballplay, witnessed nowhere else but the same enclosed arenas where this time they had to sit only to yawn in extreme boredom and curse the hapless creatures running about on the field.

All this, naturally, drew some fire from the soccer critics of the city's leading publications. And tolerating criticism is a virtue rarely practised in its soccer world.

Added to it was the phenomenon of 'arranged matches'. People having their own axes to grind might come out to the defence of those who have been seen arranging such deals too blatantly to turn the eyes elsewhere in search of more dignified things. But it is doubtful if their loud voices and impassioned rhetoric will prove powerful and effective enough to bury the truth, which even a teen-age frequenter to the grounds are today aware of quite well.

Now the problem was with such murky dealings going on in full swing, the brokers started looking upon the representatives of the Fourth Estate as secret agents of the 007 James Bond kind, out to catch them red-handed. Hence the policy to cut them dead. After all, with skeletons in the cupboard who can hazard the risk of welcoming a hawk-eyed guest?



WORLD AQUATICS MEET

East German girls create havoc

WHEN the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) gave the final sanction, little did hosts Ecuador foresee the number of problems that would crop up when organising the fourth World Aquatics Championships at Guayaquil. Because of their inexperience, the organisers had to seek advice from several countries as to how to run the mammoth show. Advice was given but unfortunately most of it went unheeded. It was surprising that the world body had to allot the championship to Guayaquil, the biggest city on the coast of South America where there were extremes of wealth and poverty. Besides, it also has the distinction of the highest number of petty offences and juvenile drug addicts. No wise visitor among the 2,000 entrants from 57 countries for the event dared risk strolling alone on the streets even during daytime, leave alone at night. A German swimmer however, did go

through the traumatic experience of larceny in spite of the intensive security.

The venue had five marvellous pools for the championship but the water polo goals were not in accordance with international specifications. This was a strange fact indeed. Believe it or not, an SOS was sent to the director of the second World Championship at Cali, Mr Hernando Botero, who literally thought "it must have been a big joke." Realising the seriousness later, Mr Botero came to the rescue. But that was not the end of the problem. A great deal of equipment and clothing were brought from North America and Europe, but there was pilferage on the way.

Even till a couple of days prior to the competition there was utter chaos and many thought under the circumstance that a meet of this size would face a lot of criticism. As a visiting newsman commented "Ev-

erything is mixed up—the event is too big for the country." But the director of the organising committee declared that they would not allow the championship to be shifted anywhere else. The meet would go on as scheduled. The organisers displayed all good intentions but their inexperience proved the bottleneck. Had they followed advice accordingly the championship would probably have been better off.

At least one trend was reversed in South America. At the West Berlin Worlds in 1978, the United States captured altogether twenty golds—11 in the men's and the rest in the women's—to come out top among the participating countries. Four years is a long interim period, but contending nations went the whole hog to snub the Americans. The Moscow Olympics stood in between and the USA had to prove their prowess as the leading country, but the boycott of the 1980 Games by America en-



Ricardo Prado—400 m individual medley star

abled the Soviet Union and the East Germans to call the tune. The boycott did more harm to the American swimmers than good. They had to prove whether they are still superior to the rest of the world. But Guayaquil gave American supremacy a considerable jolt. Although they took the top spot in the men's section, the East German women created havoc. Even then, there can be no room for complacency for the male swimmers as they managed only six gold and lost as many events, which they could have mustered with a little more effort.

The Americans have etched up a name for themselves in the freestyle events but they were rudely shocked although having bettered the 4 x 100 m relay world mark by nearly half a second. They also redeemed themselves further when they established yet another world record in the 400 m (3 19 26) and then went on to clinch the 800 m relay title.

There were several highlights which cannot be overlooked. Britain's Adrian Moorhouse may have ended fourth in the men's 100 m breast-stroke but he had the satisfaction of becoming his country's fastest-ever breast-stroke sprinter with a timing of 1 3 15—which is even better than that of Olympic champions David Wilkie and Duncan Goodhew. It is sheer ill-luck that Moorhouse missed the world mark by 200th of a second, but he is capable of achieving it. USA's Steve Lundaquist has the world record in this event. The 200 m breast-stroke record of Scot David Wilkie—one of the oldest in the record book—was erased by talented Canadian Victor Davis. Experts say that his swim of 2 14 77, which is 0 34 of a second inside the Scot's was a unique feat.

The women's individual medley events were dominated by the Germans, with Petra Schneider—the best swimmer in this meet—wresting both the golds in the 100 and 200 m events. In fact, she gave her team the first gold, beating compatriot Kathleen Nord and defending champion American Tracy Caulkins, by 13 metres and clocking 4 36 10—improving the Moscow timing by 0 19 of a second—while in the 200 m event she returned record figures of 2 11 97.

The Americans were put in the shade in the men's 200 m and 400 m medley. The first shock came from non-entity Brazil, for whom 17-year-old Ricardo Prado proved his potential. With his immaculate style he pipped GDR's J Berndt in the 400 m with a record-breaking feat of 4 19 78. Perhaps Prado might not have smelled the gold had he not trained in Mission Viejo (California). His was a rare triumph for South America as this continent has never had it so good in swimming. The greatest regret for Prado, who has lived in the United States since 14,



Jorg Wothe—men's 100 m freestyle record



Michael Gross—two gold medals

was that he shattered the 1978 world mark which was held by none other than his trainer Jesse Vassallo

Bill Barrett of the U.S.A., too, was astonished by his defeat in the 200 m medley at the hands of Soviet Alexander Sidorenko but one of the most sensational triumphs was in the women's 200 m freestyle After GDR's Bugit Meineke clocked 55.79 for the 100 m gold, she was deprived of first place in the 200 m by Dutch teenager Annemarie Verstappen This, in fact, was a rude shock for the German lass because she had beaten

the lanky Dutch swimmer in the heats But the manner in which Miss Verstappen swam enabled her to beat the two-minute barrier—1:59.53 However, Carmela Schmidt and Petra Schneider gave the GDR the 400 m freestyle gold and silver, respectively The German quartet finished the freestyle events with top place in the 100 m relay The other relay gold too were in their kitty

It was evident that there was no stopping the German girls They had e-written the two back-stroke



Petra Schneider holds the trophy for the best swimmer. She won two golds and one silver setting a record in the 400 m individual medley



Kristin Otto—new mark in 100 m back-stroke

events First it was Otto Kristin who did her laps in the 100 m with a world mark of 1:13.0, while Cornelia Such shattered the 200 m by almost two seconds (2:09.91) American Mary Meagher had fluctuating fortunes in her pet butterfly event She was considered virtually invincible but after taking the 100 m gold she was dumfounded by her defeat in the 200 m by East German Ines Geissler Little did Miss Meagher realise that Geissler would not only surpass her but also break her world record (2:08.66) Honours were shared in the women's 100 and 200 m breast-stroke events In fact, Varganova did herself proud by notching up the first gold for the Soviet Union after putting aside GDR's Ute Geweniger But the German girl was unconcerned by this mild setback as she went on to snatch the 100 m gold

One needs to put in a lot more to be a world beater Soviet Svetoslav Semenov definitely seemed frustrated because on both occasions in the duel for the 400 m and the gruelling 1500 m freestyle events gold he was brushed aside by World and Olympic champion Vladimir Salnikov of the USSR Nevertheless Semenov has the makings of a champion The tussle for the two men's butterfly golds was on in right earnest American Matt Gribble romped home in the 100 m with a meet record of 53.88 seconds—700th of a second slower than the world mark But the 200 m saw the most successful West German Michael Gross pip the entire field, with a world mark of 1:58.85 Gross went on to pocket another gold in the 200 m freestyle The Americans must have loathed the sight of the West German swimmer beating favourite Rowdy Gaines, who just a fortnight before flying to Guayaquil bettered his own world timing of 1:48.93 by 0.23 second Rick Carey of US won the 200 m back stroke gold in style, with world figure of 2:08.2

So it was a Waterloo for the Americans The biggest setback came in the freestyle events Cornelia Enders gave their country a bag full of golds, while the Mark Spitzes will have to redeem themselves now that all roads lead to Los Angeles

Misconceptions of sports medicine

UDAYAN SEN

WHAT does Sports Medicine mean to Indians? It is generally understood in our country that sports medicine involves doping and the treatment for sport injuries. When a sportsman gets an injury like a torn cartilage or an ankle sprain during a game, he consults a doctor. The doctor who ministers such injuries is said to be a Sports Physician. This is the general idea about a sports doctor in India. Another question which a physician is very often asked is, what drugs does he prescribe to increase one's physical and sporting performances? A genuine sport physician could never advise his patients to take any drug to improve their performance because all these drugs have their negative side effects like restlessness, tremor, insomnia and excessive speech.

Another thing, every sportsman should know that in international competition doping controls are so rigid that it is impossible to get away with it. In the last Olympics in Moscow, a Finnish long distance runner was called up after the event by the Doping Commission, and the athlete was not allowed to leave the Doping Control till he had his urine and

blood tested.

Our country has a population of 650 million. Yet, in the arena of sports and games its display is miserable. In the Olympics its pitiable performance is well known. Contrast this with the records of advanced small countries like East Germany with a population of only 18 million, it bagged as many as 126 medals at the Moscow Olympics. For India it was only one. For most of the European countries the tally was between 15 and 50 medals.

This vast difference is mainly due to two reasons, firstly, the talented sportsmen and athletes of those countries are being trained by their best coaches from an early age. Secondly, their coaching is scientifically programmed, which in modern sports medicine is the direct application of sports physiology and biomechanics in the selection and training of athletes.

In these countries where sport has made spectacular progress the application of the above knowledge is an absolute necessity. It is definitely not a hit and miss approach.

In the Moscow Olympics, Caren Merschuk was 16 years when she

won three gold medals and one silver medal in swimming. The year before the Olympics she swam 8.9 kms a day including Sundays, Christmas and all other holidays. She covered almost 3,000 kms that year. Caren swam the 100m butterfly stroke in Moscow in 1 min 00.42 secs.

The other day I had a few words with Sarmistha Mukherjee who has been representing Bengal in swimming since 1978. She is now 15 years old. She had initially taken up swimming as a hobby at the age of 11. After one year she was approached by coach Anil Dasgupta, who recommended her to take up swimming seriously. Under him she began her training, swimming 2 to 2½ hours a day, 6 days a week, including holidays. She trains regularly for eleven months in the year and swims about 2-3 kms a day. During winter, she does gymnastics, jogging, pulley, wall bar and mat exercises. It is also very important for swimmers to know the physical properties of water, but unfortunately Sarmistha has no knowledge of it. Women by virtue of their sex are at a disadvantage in a very large number of sports. Certainly there are some women who are relatively manly and there are some men who are relatively feminine. There is a wide variation in body type within a given height and weight range, a certain degree of overlapping can be expected. Skeletal differences include a greater bone strength and density in the male and a greater degree of pelvic tilt and obliquity in the female associated with femoral axes. All of these characteristics tend to go against high quality performance in most sports. Where women do have an advantage is in flexibility, since mean joint range is greater, on average women than men. Sportswomen tend to be young, healthy, nulliparous females who must be able to maintain a steady, consistent performance of high quality in which even slight variations spell defeat. It is also known that menstrual hormones play an important role in a sports-woman's career.

In sports where power is a key factor to success, the best women will remain a stroke behind the best men. The girls with substantial muscles should be recommended to sports with emphasis on strength like the javelin or discus.

Sports medicine experts like Liesen and Dalton agree that while women will continue to improve their performances they will never fully overcome disadvantages in size and strength. Bulging muscles do not make a woman as strong as a man. Men have larger hearts and lungs and more haemoglobin in their blood. That means their muscles get more oxygen and that produces more energy.

Man's wider shoulders and longer arms also increase his cleverage and

Doping tests are so rigid that it is impossible to get away. Picture shows a Soviet policeman helping Phil Vitlu Hogozkin (left) search a case containing anti-doping tests at the Moscow's Lenin Stadium during the 1980 Summer Games.



his longer legs move him farther than women. In long distance running however women have almost equal footing with men. Recently a Norwegian woman clocked 2 hours 28 minutes in a marathon race held in Helsinki. Women athletes are also less susceptible to injuries. The generative system of a female is far better protected than that of a male's exposed reproductive system. A few sports are more suitable for women because of the anatomical structure. Extra body fat gives a female long distance swimmer better buoyancy in water. Women have beaten the fastest males in the Channel crossing by almost two hours.

To be a good swimmer it is very important to know the physical properties of water in order to be able to move about in it. One should not only know them but also feel them. This is particularly important with regard to specific gravity, Archimedes principle, cohesive force of water molecules, low compressibility of water and pressure conditions in water. Getting used to moving about in water involves a lengthy process of differentiation and development of reflex reactions in response to the external forces and conditions encountered in water. Such external forces are the force of gravity, which one hardly feels in the water as a result of the relations of specific gravity existing in that element. Water resistance which must be made use of in order to propel one's body through water. A swimmer must also overcome unconditional reflexes, notably the labyrinth and balance reflex. He must also learn to control the eyelid reflex whose function normally is to protect the eye from harmful influence by closing the lids at the slightest excitation of the eye. A swimmer should be able to keep his eyes open under water.

To feel safe and act in the water in line with requirements one should meet the following minimum demands. One should be able to jump from a height of 1 to 3 metres in deep water without any fear, dive beneath the surface, open his eyes to find his bearings, assume a swimming position (breast stroke or back stroke) and swim in a definite direction by using one's arms and legs covering a distance of 25 metres and breathing rhythmically in the process.

In the Seoul Football Tournament five officials accompanied our National team. Unfortunately neither a physician nor a physiotherapist was sent there. The Indian players received medical attention from the Brazilian doctor who had accompanied the Sao Paulo team. A coach, a sports physician and a physiotherapist is a must with any football team. The players' physical fitness and general health conditions are of utmost importance during such a tournament. Massage of the whole body and warming up before any



India has 650 million people. Result, only one gold at the Moscow Olympics whereas with a population of just 18 million East Germany bagged as many as 126 medals. Picture shows GDR's Martina Jaschke performing for the platform diving gold.

game or event is also essential as it prevents injuries and muscle cramps. In warm countries like India excessive sweating and mineral depletion cause cramps. Prevention has been demonstrated by glucose and salt supplements at half time of the game. The players are given ten minutes of massage followed by a warm up before every game. This is an important measure to prevent injuries.

It goes without saying that a country where the general health of the people is sound will produce proportionately better sportsman than one where the people suffer from undernourishment. The general state of health in India largely explains the poor performances of our sportsmen. Moreover when our footballers come to practise for the National team it is generally found they are already matured players—full grown, experienced and unable to adapt themselves to any new techniques. Any defects they may have in their shooting, heading or tackling etc. are difficult and almost impossible to abolish. For example, one of our best goalkeepers has great difficulty in negotiating the ball in the air though he is brilliant with ground shots. This serious shortcoming is now beyond repair, no matter how much coaching he receives.

What is even more worrying is the discovery of various diseases our sportsmen suffer from in our Patiala Camp such as anemia and ECG

changes. It is noteworthy that none of these diseases is incurable and proper treatment should immediately enhance the standard of their performance.

We do not have the high technical know-how in our country as in the West, but with our limited resources and scientific knowledge we can—with the help of physiology, physics and bio-chemistry—do a lot more than what we are doing today. If only our sports organisations, the sports clubs, and Government bodies like the Sports Councils could create more system and coordination among themselves, we could definitely achieve a lot more. Today simple coaching is not enough for maximum possible efficiency of an athlete. To get in depth information with respect of functioning of related physiologic process and to guide the coach accordingly, it is necessary to have the specialised tests and interpretations of tests.

Before I end I would like to appeal to the Three Big clubs of Calcutta, to take the initiative to open nursery teams (boys between 11 and 15 years) in football, hockey and athletic. They have also the space in the club premises to have a gymnasium and weight training facilities. The clubs also have the financial backing to provide the boys with regular sports medical check-ups which is an absolute necessity to improve our sports.

"I want to win the Olympic gold. Preferably in the 100m, because I've won the Olympic twice already"—(Decathlete Daley Thompson after having returned from injury to resume his relentless drive for ever-increasing decathlon achievement).



"A caster of spells, weaver of dreams"—(Robin Marlar on Abdul 'Tweaker' Qadir in *The Sunday Times*)

"In my mind I play these shots as straight as possible. I tell myself, don't pick up the bat too high. Feel the ball on the bat man"—(Viv Richards in *The Sunday Times* describes himself before a match)

"I make one clear condition: to be able to work in peace without having to look over my shoulder in the very ambience where I work"—(Enzo Bearzot the coach of the victorious Italian football team after learning that Italo Allodi might once again be appointed as manager)

"A pal of mine left my boots in the hotel and it was too late to go back for them when we discovered it." (Kevin Keegan after he played in borrowed boots for Europe against the Rest of the World)

"Hey, what's the story here? Looks like some out of town convention"—(Two American businessmen overheard outside the stadium in New Jersey where Europe played the Rest of the World)

"Ian Greaves was asked to resign, but he declined and we had no other option but to terminate his services"—(Wolves Club official after the team sacked their manager).

"Crisis testing time"—(Graham Gooch on being asked in *The Cricketer* what he likes the most).

"The fans must understand our problems. We cannot play without contracts. If I was injured, I do not know what would become of me"—(Paolo Rossi after his club Juventus had asked him along with Gentile and Tardelli to play a pre-season friendly match before renewing their contracts)

"The hepatitis wasn't strong, but it was the kind that is difficult to get out of. Sometimes you have it all your life. I lost a lot of strength"—(Spaniard Jose Higuera after making a great comeback to win the US Open Clay Court Tennis Championship)

"I am getting out before I finish in a wheelchair, but I am one of the fortunate ones—I have a good job to do as the head of sport and recreation in Swansea"—(Britain's ace hurdler Berwyn Price who plans to retire by the end of the year).

"The wizard of Warwickshire" (John Woodcock in *The Times*, refers to Kallicharran after the latter's brilliant innings against Somerset).



"I don't think it was lack of winter work. Of course, I have learnt a lot here, but how I swam the race wasn't a mistake. I just wanted a medal." (The British hope Adrian Moorhouse, after finishing



seventh in the 200 metres breast-stroke at the World Swimming Championships in Guayaquil, Ecuador)

"Definitely the finest round of golf I've played anywhere"—(Raymond Floyd after returning a brilliant course record of 63, seven under par, at the United States Golf PGA Championship).

"It's always harder to get practice motivated for the last one, but I spent a lot of hours working on my game last weekend while I was at home because I needed it. That shows me I'm still interested in winning a major this year"—(Jack Nicklaus a few days before the US Golf PGA Championship).

"David Baristow is a very valued member of the side and he has two years of his contract still to run, rumours of his departure are completely unfounded"—(Ronnie Burnet, Chairman of Yorkshire's Cricket Committee squashing rumours that Baristow was to leave the county).

"I realise the offer was too good for any owner to refuse; but I still can't help feeling disappointed.

Royal Heroine is the best filly I've ever had and am ever likely to have"—(Trainer Mick Ryan after his ward was sold to Robert Sangster for a 'six-figure sum' and is now to be trained by Stoute instead)

"The problem is that we travel a lot and meet a lot of people. Like when you go to South America, people come up to you with drugs. You just say, 'No,—get away'." (Yannick Noah in the *Herald Tribune*, on the role of drugs in tennis tour life)



"YOU cannot imagine how big they are." Last Bengal coach, Amal Dutta, on Pulak Biswas' legs afflicted by boils.

"TO try to replace Underwood and Emburey in the slow bowling department is very difficult"—(Bob Willis)

"As the gull conceals in easeful glide

The inborn gift to curl and ride

The gale merging the sea-wind's force

With lovely moment on a chosen course

So, in time swoop, he moves to charm

The ball down swirling from the bowler's arm

Along some glissade of his won creation

Beyond the figures' black and white rotation

Recorded centuries leave no trace

On memory of that timeless grace"

(John Arlott on Denis Compton)

ALL IN THE GAME

LILLEE IN HOT WATER

For betting

THE lure of money they could not resist, even when they were busy defending their country's honour against impending disgrace at the hands of their traditional rivals. The Australian ace Dennis Lillee has admitted in his recently published autobiography "*My Life in Cricket*" that he along with the wicket-keeper Rodney Marsh took bets worth £8,000 on England to win the third Test at Headingley last year. The go-between in their deals was the driver of the bus that used to take them to and from the ground, Peter Tribe.

What could be the natural reaction to Lillee's admission in his country? Obviously disgust and outrage followed by down-right condemnation. Yes, that is the way in which the old lovers of the game looked upon the "sin". "Why tell lies in the first place? It's a stupid, nonsensical thing to do, it's bottom-of-the-barrel—we must stop these fellows", were the angry words of former Test batsman and national selector Neil Harvey. Even harsher was the language of Hunter Hendry, the oldest living Australian cricketer. "Their behaviour is outrageous, they have spoilt the game".

But cricket has become such a big industry that the stars are never in want of big shots to protect them even when they do the most obnoxious things. And here the man who has come to hold a brief for the wrong-doers is one of the top personalities in Australian cricket, the chairman of ACB David Richards. "It is a fundamental goal for any Australian picked to represent his country at cricket to play at his best. The bet was just one of those



things. Betting on cricket matches is legal in England."

Bravo Mr Richards. But is that enough? Perhaps their act is too blatant to be covered up by such a vague defence.

SCAPEGOAT-SEARCHING

This time it's umpires

A serious row has broken out in England over the starting time of cricket matches, with players of even the highest standing expressing their disapproval of the 10 o'clock start. Whenever failures come their way, the blame is being put squarely on the 'early start'.

A few days ago Essex were brought on their knees when they managed only 51 runs at the expense of nine valuable wickets in a Nat West Trophy match. Sharp came the excuse of the skipper Keith Fletcher—the early beginning of the game. And the captain was by no means short-sighted in his observations of the problem. He looked ahead and saw no future for this starting time in England.

But the early start was not quite without purpose. It was initiated to ensure that matches could end in good light, which rarely happens in 60 over games. And to add to that problem was the growing trend

of these matches towards a slower tempo.

Therefore, deaf ears are being turned to those SOS appeals with the Test and County Cricket Board ruling out chances of reconsideration or alteration of the present system in the near future. The veterans are never susceptible to excuses. Ray Illingworth, the victorious Yorkshire captain, explained that the early start had been introduced because of the tendency of time wasting which means games were not finished on time.

But cricketers are never short of bones of contention, especially as long as those white-coated luckless creatures are around. When the English came to India recently they did not mince their words when it came to talking about the umpires. The Indians paid them back on their return visit. And now the Pakistanis have joined the fray. Intikhab Alam and Imran Khan, manager and captain respectively of the touring Pakistani team have started their campaign against umpires, choosing Ken Palmer and David Evans, who conducted the first test, as their first targets. They have been charged with inconsistency. No wonder consistency is always on the side of the cricketers; at least, as far as scapegoat finding is concerned.

UNIDENTIFIED CRICKETING OBJECTS

Strange ones, too

IN the game of cricket there are oddities in plenty. But the most astonishing and of course amusing of them are perhaps the rites and rituals performed by players before, during and after matches. The game's history abounds in a rec-

dotes and episodes of many such peculiarities and those which have not had enough luck to find their place in the carefully-guarded treasure troves in the cricket-lovers' bookshelves remain etched in the memories of those brave creatures on earth who have dared to translate the beauty of the game into words.

There is Philip Mead, that great cricketer who was known for his queer habit of going through a series of strange movements before taking up position at the wicket. Then there was that giant Denis Compton, the hero of many a legend. He used to swirl his bat at every single opportunity, especially between deliveries, to give his spectators in the stands a few dazzle of sunlight reflected on the shiny parts of his willow weapon.

There were even snake hunters. Remember Ted Dexter, who never relented in his search for vipers on the carpet when bowlers made their way back to the top of the bowling mark, planning new strategies to put an end to that seemingly ceaseless prowling about.

Now come to a modern celebrity. Abdul Qadir of Pakistan. What a bewildering walk back he has on the way to his bowling mark, bouncing the ball continuously. When the mark is reached, he begins the run for the delivery though his chest is still turned towards the leg side field. But, when almost halfway through his run up the ball suddenly changes hands—from right to left. How the rest is done is something only he can explain. But the result remains the same—a googly or a top spinner.

But whims are not the disease of the players only. The monarchs of the meadows are not immune to them either. During the first Pakistan England Test one of the umpires was seen holding a light-meter to his ear.

Sportspeople

Chen Meikong— China's pride

BIDDING goodbye to ideological differences China entered the international sporting arena in a big way. The exposure was tremendous and the sporting fraternity soon realised that China was no easy piece of meat. China today has etched up a name in various disciplines, starting with table tennis climaxed by the blitzkrieg at Novisad last year. That year too, saw their women's volleyball team win the World Championship in style.

And now China is proud to have *Chen Meikong's* name in the international basketball referees panel. This is quite an achievement for her. But how did she make it this far? It was in May 1978 during the tour of the American women's hoopsters to her country. In the series, the visitors sustained two consecutive defeats and during the third match the captain of the US team who was also an international referee volunteered to officiate the encounter and sought the assistance of a Chinese umpire. This was quite a bombshell for the Chinese women because till then they did not have a first grade referee.

Someone amongst them uttered Chen Meikong's name. This surprised her a bit. But Chen lived up to everyone's expectation. The bright and cheerful lady in her mid-thirties darted about the court and gave precise judgement like an experienced international referee. Although the US side succumbed to the opponents' pressure the US team skipper applauded Chen's umpiring. "You did a fine job, Chen, and you can very well apply to be an international referee." Chen passed both the practical and theoretical examinations with honours to obtain the title of National Referee in May 1981. In fact, she became the first Chinese woman who was certified by the International Basketball Federation and the world's eleventh woman international referee. She said "It's not the title that really matters. The important thing is to live up to it. And to do so I must go on working very hard."

As a teenager Chen represented her junior middle school in basketball and later enrolled at a physical education school in Beijing. Then she played guard for the Beijing women's team. At present, she is a coach at the Sports School in the capital. As a coach she had to referee her trainees' practice matches. That



was how she came to be inseparable with the whistle. It's not that she has not been jeered by contentious crowds but she affirms that it is more difficult to referee men's games than women's because her authority has been challenged quite frequently by male coaches—and that is embarrassing.

Meeta Singha Roy opts for Madhya Pradesh

The junior girls' national champion *Meeta Singha Roy* has left Assam and enrolled herself in class XI at the Central School in Indore. She has decided to play for Madhya Pradesh in future. It ought to be noted that during the end of August she had been selected as captain of the junior girls team for the Ankara (Turkey) championship. This year in the Asian Table Tennis Championship at Jakarta Meeta Singha finished fifth in her section and in 1980 she was sent on a one month stint to Seoul. The sudden departure from her home State has surprised the table tennis fraternity—an added mystery too. Reliable sources, however, point out that Meeta Singha was a victim of the foreigners' wave in Assam. She was not given any cognizance in spite of her good game and she was also deprived of valuable practice. But she has refuted these rumours as baseless and said "I have come over to Indore because of my academic interests. I could not appear for the class IX examinations in 1979 because of the



agitation in Assam. I opted for Indore because there is ample scope of improving my game with the best of facilities being provided here. The people in Gauhati were very good to me and my family who still reside there. How can I forget that I first picked up the racquet in 1979 because of the inspiration of my coach Mr C R Bhowmick, at the Bengali Girl's High School in Gauhati. Another reason for my switching over to MP is that I simply admire Snigdha Mehta's game. I try to model my game on the lines of her and Indu Puri.

Fifteen-year old Meeta is an epitome of a perfectly fit person. In the last nationals at Palghat, she defeated Niyoti Roy of Maharashtra to become the junior champion and to top it all she even reached the pre-quarters in the women's section. A very interesting point that was raised by Meeta was the facility of sending players abroad for coaching stints. "When in Seoul we were made to play among ourselves. The Koreans players had matches with us but surprisingly no Korean coach ever gave us any tips. After we had finished our practice the Koreans would start playing among themselves and the coaches would give them their views," said Meeta, adding, perhaps the language problem is one of the greatest hindrances in our coaching programmes abroad."

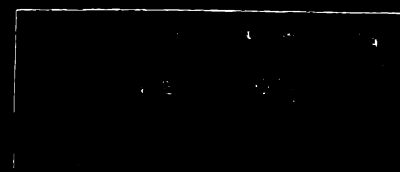
Meeta is happy at Indore and recently she won the Indian Overseas Bank tourney sans Snigdha Mehta and Rita Jain, who are abroad. Agreed, that the behaviour of the people in Assam is exceptionally good but then there are some doubts because even Cufew Roy had to come to Calcutta. Nevertheless, with Meeta's inclusion MP now has one of the strongest contingents in the women's and girls' sections. MP has India's No. 2 subjunior Jyoti Mehta, who is also tipped to go to Ankara along with Meeta, Snigdha Mehta and Rita Jain. Except for Meeta the rest are the products of the Indore TT Stadium Club, which has a robot machine, imported tables and all types of racquets which the players can buy. Awards of racquets are made to players who do well at the national level.

Why Madhya Pradesh is in the forefront is because the best training and practice facilities are made available to the players by the Indore club. Even the Korean coach Pak-U-Gil will vouch for this. The brainchild of the club is Suresh Gawde, the chairman of the ITTI Selection Committee. He is a strict disciplinarian and he sees to it that each and every girl who seems promising, plays with the senior men's MP team all the year round. This has helped the girls tremendously, while their counterparts have to depend on themselves.



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News round-up

Women steal the show

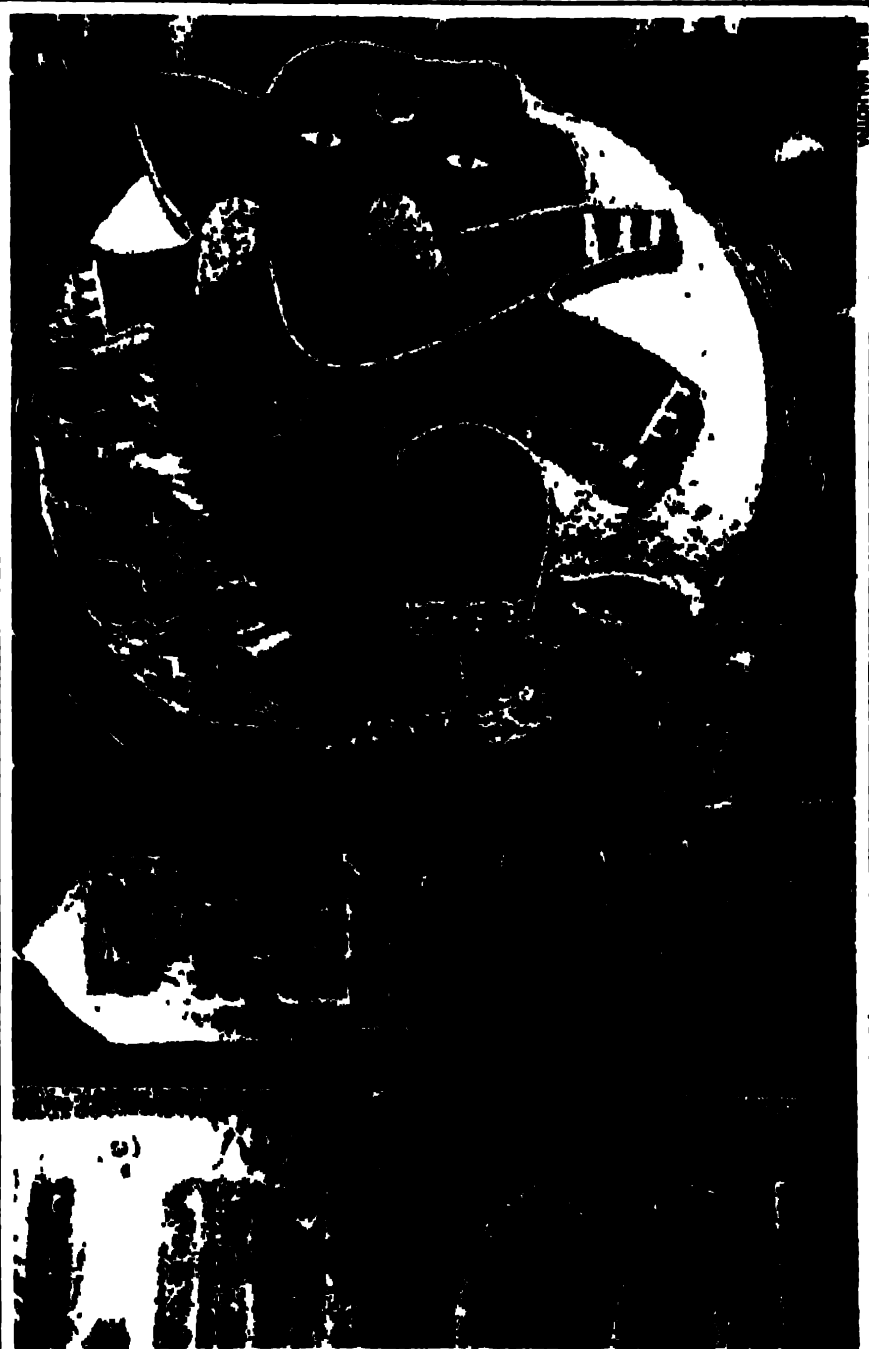
MADRAS The revival of the South Zone Volleyball Championships after a lapse of 15 years could not have been better timed, what with the Asian Games around the corner. And it was with keen anticipation that one looked forward to seeing the progress of the Indian probables in the five-day meet. So, when on the eve of the championships came the announcement that the probables were asked by their coaches not to strain themselves by taking part, there was understandably a lot of disappointment here. However the ban applied only to the men's squad and not the women's and so the championships were not to be without glamour after all.

When they ended, the impression one got was that the championships would not have been all that better even had the probables taken part. For the fare provided was for most part exhilarating, true the odd poor match was in evidence. But by and large the matches were interesting, hard fought and close and the standard was good.

Not surprisingly, the best fare was provided in the women's event. Among the 16 probables for the Asian Games, seven participated in the championships, which was played on a league basis amongst Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra and Karnataka.

Kerala were expected to triumph on the basis of having in their ranks two probables in Sally Joseph and Jaisamma and also by virtue of the fact that they were the national champions. But Tamil Nadu, who also had in their ranks two probables in Sumathi and Sreemathi turned the tables on them in a five-game thriller to win the title. The match, even in the eyes of seasoned followers of the game, was the best seen here in a long, long time. The matches were so arranged that Tamil Nadu and Kerala, having scored outright wins over Karnataka and Andhra, met in the final encounter on August 1. It lasted over 100 minutes and there was really little to choose between the teams. The rallies were long and very close. In the final analysis, it was a superb performance by the towering Tamil Nadu captain Sreemathi which tilted the scales in the home team's favour and Tamil Nadu rallied to win 8-15, 15-4, 8-15, 17-15, 15-13.

The men's event, contested on a league basis by the four Southern States and Pondicherry provided only a few thrills. This also turned out to be a two-horse race between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the national



ARTISTIC APPU The mascot for the Delhi Asiad will soon be brought to life. The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister has presented a ten-month old baby elephant which is now being given special training. The elephant—Appu to the world—will garland President Giani Zail Singh at the inaugural ceremony followed by a jig in true Appu fashion. The calf is putting in over seven hours of practice daily.

runners up. Kerala were without five of their star players, all covered by the ban on the probables while Tamil Nadu were affected only by the loss of Sridhar. The Kerala team constituted mostly university players and as such it came as no surprise when Tamil Nadu won 16-14, 15-8, 12-15, 19-17.

As an indication towards our prospects for the Asian Games, the South Zone Championships were only partly successful with respect of our women. It was apparent that the successive camps have done their

game a world of good. "We can feel the vast improvement in our game," more than one player told me. It does look like we can justifiably expect a good account from them in the Asian Games. Regarding the men, of course, no such yardstick could be applied and it could be said, except for the fact the standard on view was not bad. Doubtlessly the probables for the Asiad, had they played, would have provided for better display of volleyball.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

Enter the professionals

In the early days when cricket was a mere sport, there was hardly any player who was a full professional in a real sense. But there is no doubt that many in those less rigid days were employed for their cricketing abilities and were required to carry out personal duties connected with their patrons' estate or business.

Historians tell us that 'the 18th century professionists were gardeners, groomers, gameskeepers, cobblers, millers, barbers and so on' for there was not enough cricket and earnings to provide them with a full-time occupation even during the season.

No one knows for certain who was the first professional. But Thomas Waymark, of Sussex, was considered the 'father of cricket professionals'.

Waymark was as good an all rounder as he was a gentleman. He was highly respected by his colleagues and adversaries. Such was his popularity that when he took part in the first Test match between the Duke and the Sussex team scheduled to be played at Lord's, it was postponed until Waymark was able to play.

In those early days, the professionals were employed by Rajas and Maharajas who did not actually promote the game, but tried to glorify their image. In reality, they did more harm than

good to Indian cricket. Among many such instances here is one which, even now, will shock and unnerve every follower of the game.

The late Prithvi Raj 'Billoo' wrote a book saying that Indian cricket had no future as long as it was controlled by the Maharajas. His staunch rival in Patiala once told Billoo that His Highness was very annoyed with him. The gentleman cricketer that was Billoo, was so distressed and upset that he fled from Patiala overnight and joined the Western India Cricket Association (WICA).

After the Independence, tremendous interest in the game was created among the people by media. Public and private sectors began offering jobs to renowned players. Such is the situation now that

cricketers, a pampered lot, get lucrative jobs without having to do any work for their employers. Plenty of instances are there in this country where players do not attend their offices even 30 days in a year and even on those 30 days they literally do not know which are their tables and chairs. They get income tax rebate on their earnings, act as models for advertisements in magazines and periodicals, secure gifts (there are instances when Test captains have not given certain gifts to local reserve players) and threaten umpires, if given out. The poor umpires are natural targets because the present day captains are so strong in their influence that even Board officials are afraid to raise their fingers against them.

Here are some problems.

Q 1: What is lost ball?

A: The law is enforced very rarely at present because grounds these days are well marked and without any kind of obstruction. It is, in fact, a survival from the days when there were no boundaries and there was long grass on the outfield. Its most likely use at present will be when a ball is temporarily irretrievable and all an umpire should remember is that the fielding side can call 'lost ball' at any time, but having called the award of six runs counts even if the ball is recovered at once. The law further stipulates that '...but if more than six runs have been run before 'lost ball' is called, as many runs as have been completed shall be

scored. The run in progress shall count provided that the batsmen have crossed at the instance of the call of 'lost ball'."

Q 2: The injured striker was out of his crease and the fielding side broke the wicket. In the meantime, the substitute runner and non-striker had completed one or more runs. How many runs shall be allowed?

A: No run will be allowed. The law 18 (4) says "if, however, an injured striker himself is run out, no run shall be scored." This should be in conjunction with law 2 (7) (transgression of the laws by an injured batsman or runner).

Q 3: Can a non-striker be out on a no ball?

A: Yes. He can be run out, handling the ball twice and obstructing the field.

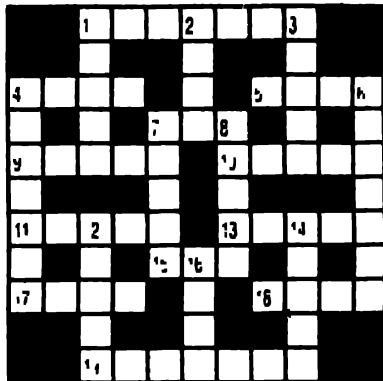
Q 4: Can a square leg umpire call no ball?

A: Yes. If he feels the delivery is not fair and when he finds more than two fielders stationed behind the popping crease on the leg side.

Q 5: The new batsman replaces the previous batsman declared out. The fielding side captain withdraws the appeal made against the last batsman. Can this be allowed?

A: No, this is not permissible. Since the dismissed batsman has already left the playing area, the withdrawal of appeal is not allowed.





ACROSS

- 1 Soviet tencer who died of wounds sustained during a session, this July (7)
- 4 These lines are found on a tennis court (4)
- 5 Cricket rebel and poet too! (4)
- 7 A cricketing Taylor who was in the news this year but not Bob (3)
- 9 A football official of Mohun Bagan Club begins with masculinity (5)
- 10 A baseball term in the plural (5)
- 11 Country where Hubin Jackman the cricketer was born (5)
- 13 This Monte is a County cricketer in England (5)
- 15 Former English captain, Lewis when his initials are jumbled up (1 1 1)
- 17 Billiards term which means to daze (4)
- 18 A modern hockey goalkeeper is quite expected to play in this these days returning (4)
- 19 Tennis player Tulasne's first name has a stutter somewhere in the middle (7)

DOWN

- 1 Orantes and Santana had this in common besides Manuel (5)
- 2 Olympic venue in 1960 (4)
- 3 An alcoholic name for one of the Wimbledon champions of the Thirties (5)
- 4 Middlesex batsman of late, whose surname begins with a contracted Thomas (7)
- 6 A football team in England that is United, but not Manchester (4, 3)
- 7 This Hunt a tennis entrepreneur (5)
- 8 A tennis player's name which literally means 'a social assembly for dancing' (1, 4)
- 12 American sports writer originally, who later wrote a couple of books with Mike Brearley (5)
- 14 Ilie Nastase or? (5)
- 16 A sporting princess and also an Olympian (4)

Question box

V Choudhary, Begusarai

Q Will a batsman be given out if he is stumped off a no-ball?

A No

B Srinivas Rao, Vishakhapatnam

Q How many centuries has Kapil Dev hit so far in Tests?

A Two in 38 Tests, before embarking on the tour of England in 1982

Q How old is the Test cricketer Pranab Roy?

A Twenty five years, five months on 10 July 1982

Dharam Singh Chahal, Bermo

Q How many Indian batsmen have scored five or more centuries in Tests?

A Gavaskar (24), Vishwanath (14), Umrigar (12) Hazare (7), Manjrekar (7), Vengsarkar (6), V Mankad (5) Pankaj Roy (5) Borde (5) and Sardesai (5) at the end of the second Test versus England at Manchester, 1982

Jyotin Rajotia, Indore

Q On which dates did Kapil Dev and Ian Botham complete their 'double' in Tests?

A Kapil Dev completed the 'double' on 31 January 1980 and Ian Botham on 16 August 1979

Atanu Ranjan Tripathy, Nelia

Q Will you please mention the runs scored by Don Bradman against each Test playing country?

A Bradman scored 5028 versus England 806 versus South Africa, 447 versus West Indies and 715 versus India

Q Will you please mention Gary Sobers scores against each Test playing country?

A Sobers scored 3214 against England, 1510 against Australia 404 against New Zealand 1920 against India and 984 against Pakistan

K Ilangoan, Pondicherry

Q How many runs Sunil Gavaskar scored in Tests till the Indian team's leaving for England in 1982?

A In 75 Tests he had scored 6718 runs till then

SOLUTION 160

A T I F V C A R
R J

A K E
S P I N S R U I A

P Natarajan, Mulbagal

Q How many centuries in Tests have been recorded for India?

A Till the conclusion of the second Test against England at Manchester in 1982, the Indians have registered 137 centuries comprising 127 centuries and 10 double centuries

Q Name the English Test cricketers of Indian origin

A K S Ranjitsinhji, K S Duleepsinhji, Ifikhar Ali Khan Pataudi and R Subba Row

Quiz

n j t Ghose

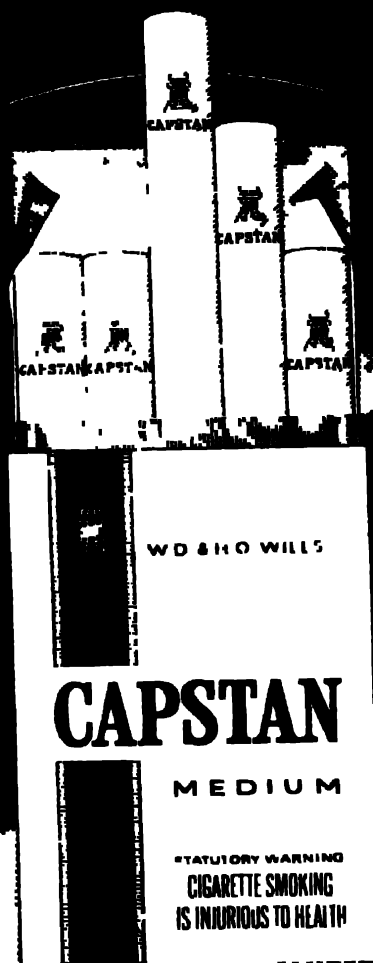
QUESTIONS

- 1 Who is the youngest national champion in the history of Chess?
- 2 Who is the only athlete to have won medals at both winter and summer Olympics?
- 3 When for the first time in the history of freestyle wrestling the event was won by twin brothers?
- 4 Who owns the individual record for participation in the Olympic Games?
- 5 Which was the first Indian team to win the Rovers Cup (Bombay)?
- 6 Name the only country which became both world champions and Olympic champions in men's handball
- 7 Who is the first Indian to take a doctorate degree from Leipzig Sports Institute (DHFK)?
- 8 The person referred to above (Q 7) is officially involved with the IX Asian Games in what capacity?
- 9 In how many countries and on how many continents do a men's (summer) sports have to become widespread for the purpose of its inclusion in the Olympic programme?
- 10 And what are the respective numbers in the case of a women's sport?

ANSWERS

- 1 Garry Kasparov an 18-year-old student from Baku
- 2 Willie O Grlu winner of gold medal in modern pentathlon (1948) and silver medal in the pentathlon de-monstration contests in the St Moritz winter Olympic Games several months earlier
- 3 Anatoly and Sergei Beloglazov achieved the feat in the Moscow Olympics
- 4 Ivan Ossiner a Danish fencer (1908, 1912, 1920, 1924, 1928, 1932 and 1948 Games)
- 5 Bangalore Muslims (1937)
- 6 U S R (Olympic Champions 1976, World Champions 1982)
- 7 C M Muthiah (in 1977)
- 8 He is the Technical Director of the Asian Games
- 9 Not less than 50 countries on three continents
- 10 Not less than 35 countries on three continents

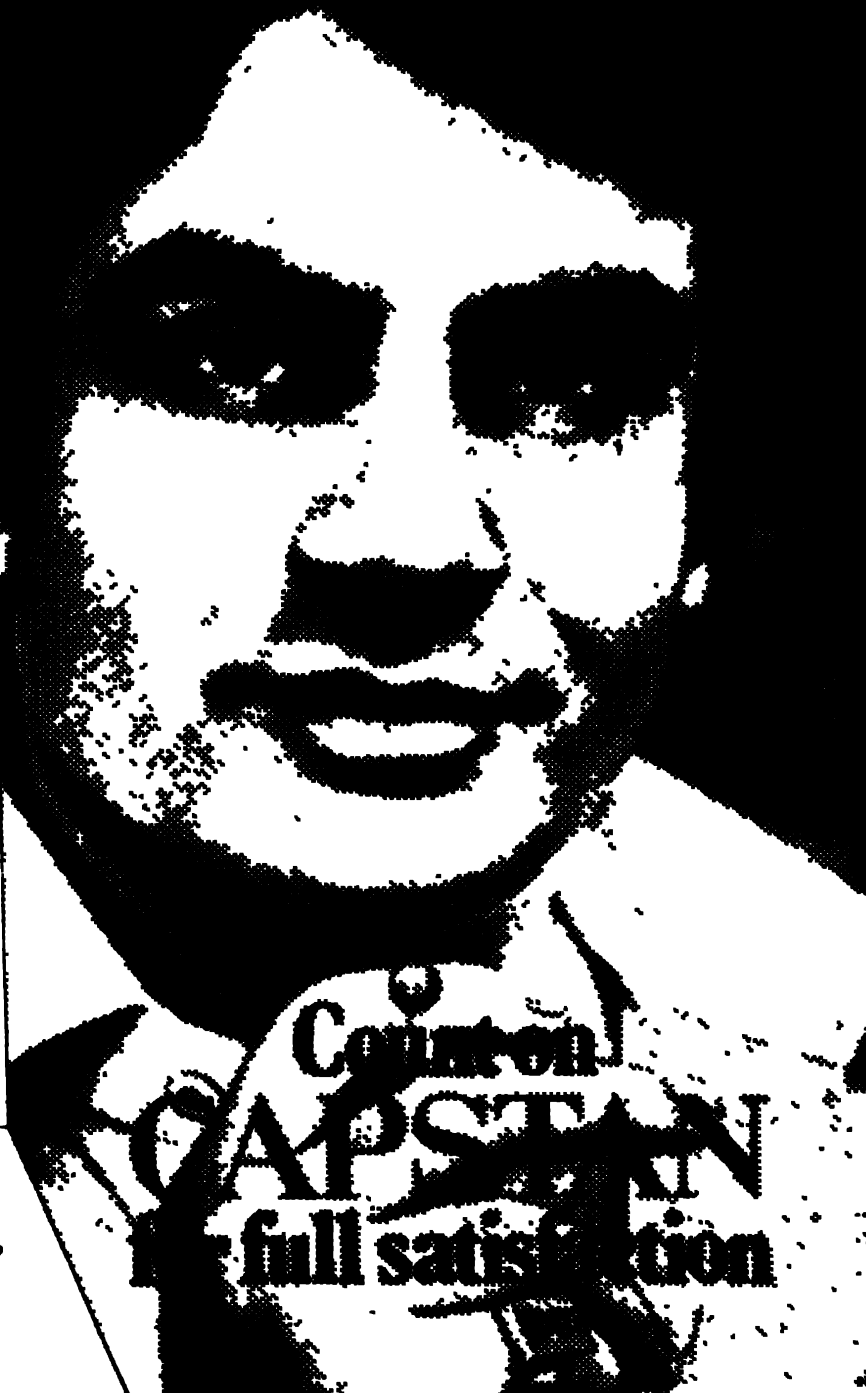
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es-men are ruining
the game



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Fight tooth decay
with **Colgate**
Dental Cream



For complete dental care use
Colgate Trigard Toothbrushes
THREE TIMES BETTER

- 1 Guard tooth enamel
- 2 Guard against dental plaque
- 3 Guard gums

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VOLUME IV ISSUE 47 AN ANANDA BAZAR PUBLICATION Rs 250



HOW JIMMY AND I WON WIMBLEDON

This week, we begin extracts from the book "Chrissie" In the first instalment, Chris Evert-Lloyd tells how she and her then fiance, the incomparable Jimmy Connors, took the All-England Club by storm in 1974



11 YES-MEN ARE RUINING INDIAN HOCKEY
The game has been in a sorry state for years, with skeletons tumbling out of the IHF cupboard at regular intervals A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT discovers that there is still no solution in sight

16 ENGLAND WIN A THRILLER

England beat Pakistan at Leeds and won the series 2-1 but not before the visitors had swung the game their way on the fourth evening PAUL FITZPATRICK reports



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Letters to the Editor

Amused

IT was a real pleasure to go through the article on 'the stroke player of the decade'—T E Srinivasan. But I was really amused to read the comments on 'T E' the man Arrogant and proud? And T. E? That sounds funny

How many of us know him as a man? I happened to meet him once at Chepauk during V V. Kumar's benefit match last year. After acquiring his autograph, I asked him, "Seema (as he is popularly known in Tamil Nadu), is it true that you once hooked some of Michael Holding's most vicious bouncers for sixes?" I was indeed surprised to find Srinivasan blinking. Perhaps, he was trying hard to recollect the event. So I had to insist, "When you toured the West Indies with the Hyderabad Blues with Chandra, V V. Kumar and others under Pataudi's captaincy?" This time I was absolutely taken aback when he continued to blink. And after a few seconds with typical Srinivasan grin, he said, "A ah! That was l-o-n-g back" (And all through the conversation he never took his eyes off the game)

When a cricketer of Gavaskar's fame cherishes the memory of his hooks off club bowlers a look at this cricketer is worth it. He does not even bother to remember hooks for sixes off Holding! What a humble, unlucky and unwanted genius this cricketer is!

**LALITHA
VAIDYANATHAN,
Tirupur**

THE interview of Parthab Ramchand with T E Srinivasan was very interesting. I feel that the reasons that Srinivasan mentions in his subtle manner are very much true. I vehemently protest against the Cricket Board's discriminatory attitude and feel that it is becoming increasingly evident that you need a godfather to play in Tests. Poor Sriniva-

san does not seem to have one and that is the big tragedy

**TAPASH KUMAR DAS,
Dibrugarh**

HATS OFF for the wonderful T E Srinivasan interview. He is absolutely correct when he says that there are some Test players who should not have made it at all. I can name some like Kurti Azad, Pranob Roy, Ashok Malhotra as the prominent example.

Another one that can be added on to the list is that of Yashpal, who just made it twice into double figures in Tests but was still persisted with. Moreover, to go back a little, Srinivasan in New Zealand was not chosen for a particular Test after he had scored 90 against the swinging ball. On the other hand, Kurti Azad got himself a hundred against some old ball stuff and was immediately

picked
**B RAMEN RAO,
Jamshedpur**

Reply

I READ with interest Badal Bhattacharjee's letter published in your 11 August issue. In reply to the questions I give below the answers.

1) To say that Vishwanath is vulnerable against rising balls is something to be laughed at. Let me remind Mr Bhattacharjee of Vishwanath's classic innings at Melbourne in 1980-81 against Dennis Lillee. What has Mr Bhattacharjee have to say against Vishy's innings of 75 against the Caribbeans in the one-day international during the last World Cup?

2) May I know where the writer was when Botham, Willis and Allott were bowling in the Madras Test. Vishwanath, let me remind him, made his Test best of 222. Were the balls delivered by these bowlers full-tosses?

Let me thank God that Mr Bhattacharjee has not been born as a selector!

**K MOHAN,
Udumalpet**

I AM not satisfied with Mr Badal Bhattacharjee's

views. He himself admits that India is failing because Vishwanath is failing. Could there be greater praise for him?

Moreover, let me remind him that in his last nine innings Vishwanath has been scoring with great consistency—15, 0, 22, 74, 1, 3, 54, 56 and 75. His average, thus, comes up to 62.50 which is the best in the Indian eleven at present. I wonder how a batsman can be dropped with such a record to back him.

NARLISH SACHDEVA,
New Police Line

It was extremely painful to read Mr. Badal Bhattacharjee's views in your 11 August edition. Unfortunately, he does not seem to appreciate the finer points of the game. It must be remembered that Vishwanath is an attacking batsman and that means very much. He is also a marvellous improviser and is a treat to watch. Moreover, Vishwanath's vulnerability against the rising ball is a general Indian weakness. Let me also add that even Ashok Malhotra's favourite batsman is Vishwanath himself.

C. R. JAYANTH KUMAR
Mysore

In an interview in the Cricket Quarterly Oct-Dec 1975 issue Mr. Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi had said that Vishwanath and Manprekar were the best Indian batsmen in that position ever. That is no small compliment.

K. S. V. SHARMA
Sakleshpur

It is really weak against leg spinners and rising balls then how did he manage to bat so effectively against Underwood and Willis last winter? His technique, talent, ability and skill are beyond question. Someday he is bound to retire but it is too early now to bid a goodbye to this touch artiste. And by replacing him with Ashoke Malhotra is highly ridiculous.

CH. SURYA PRAKASH RAO,
Gaya

THIS letter is posted in protest over Mr. Radhik Bhattacharjee's statements concerning Vishwanath. Has he ever seen Vishwanath bat? Does he

even know anything about cricket?

H. N. RAMKRISHNA,
Hamburg (West Germany)

ONE can never forget the man who has saved India from many a crisis. How can I ever forget that great knock of 97 not out against Lloyd's mighty West Indies of his? Can we write off Vivian Richards of the West Indies just because he failed in one or two seasons?

A. N. RAVI KUMAR,
Mysore

It is not possible to list down the comments of leading players and critics like Bradman, Sir Bobbery, Ian Chappell, Tony Greig, John Arlott, Tony Cozier and our own Sunil Gavaskar. But it seems that Mr. Bhattacharjee knows better about cricket than them.

AMII GHOSH,
Calcutta

(We have received letters expressing the same sentiments also from *Reyaz Ahmad of Patna, Onkar and Indranil Bhattacharya of Serampore, Rajeev Kumar Mehta of Calcutta, V. S. Suresh of Madras, B. Ramen Rao of Jamshedpur, B. K. Padmanabha Rao of Jayanagar, Mr. Vivek of Jullundur, Kamal Bhattacharjee of Calcutta, H. Ravi Shanker of Madras, Ram Prasad Mahab of Durgapur, and Mr. A. K. Singh of Malda*.)

Confusing

WHILE going through K. R. Wadhwaney's article on cricket umpiring in the *Sportsworld* of 11 August it was mentioned that "One of the celebrated and controversial Test stars of India was summoned by Vizzy to lead U.P. in the Ranji Trophy matches in a match against Rajasthan. Vijay Manjrekar was batting."

In this context I would like to state that in 1954-55 Lala Amarnath led Uttar Pradesh against Madhya Pradesh (captained by Ramish Divecha) at Varanasi and M.P. won the match by virtue of the first innings lead, thus leading to U.P.'s exclusion from the championship.

Then in 1956-57 the great Nayudu led U.P. in three of their matches against M.P., Rajasthan and Bombay, all of which were played at Varanasi. I doubt whether C.K. can be labelled as a controversial Test star.

On all these three occasions I was the stand-by wicketkeeper for U.P. and was also scoring for them. Vijay Manjrekar once played for U.P. and when he played for Rajasthan against U.P. it was Ashwin Chatterjee who captained the U.P. side and he never played in Tests.

Therefore, it is not known which celebrated and controversial Test star captained U.P. against Rajasthan which then included Manjrekar.

Moreover, in your 18 August issue Sudhir Vaidya has mentioned that R. A. L. Massie of Australia captured 16 wickets for 137 on his debut against England at Manchester. This is not correct. Massie had made his debut at Lord's and had taken eight wickets in each innings there.

T. D. MUKHERJEE,
All India cricket umpire
Varanasi

India can make it

FOR long India has tried to make it big in soccer but has not succeeded in doing so for many reasons. The present Merdeka squad led by Bhaskar Ganguli should at least make the last four at the Asiad at Delhi this winter.

RAHUL CHAND WARKAR,
Pune

Wake up please

THE newly constituted TAICS and SNIPS—the two wings of the Union Education Ministry who still do not have a national sports policy prior to the Asian Games—will surely not include representatives of the Indian Association of Sports Medicine. This was usual in the past in the U.K. Sports Board which always included representatives of the British Association of Sports Medicine to guide the Government on va-

rious aspects of medicine and problems.

DR. ALOK GHOSH,
Calcutta

Wrong

THIS is with reference to the Quiz in the issue dated 11 August. It is stated that the only instance of brother playing on the losing side in a World Cup soccer final is that of the Kerhoffs, who played for Holland against Argentina in 1978. But the 1982 German side had also included a pair of brothers—Karl Heinz Forster and Brenden Forster.

JAIMIN M. BHAT,
Bombay

SUDHIR VAIDYA is wrong when he says that Clive Lloyd was Bedi's first Test victim. Actually, it was Basil Butcher.

ANIRBAN PAUL,
Calcutta

'Sportsman of the Year' award

WITHOUT exaggerating we can say that *Sportsworld* has improved by leaps and bounds. The outer covers have become more attractive while the colour printing has also improved considerably.

But only one thing in which your magazine falls in the arrears is your sustained reticence in electing a Sportsman of the Year in Indian sport. At the end of every year you should present a Sportsman of the Year trophy to the sportsman elected by the readers of your magazine. We think that this will be in the interest of Indian sport and sportsmen.

MOHAMMAD SAHUZ ZAMAN,
SARFAT HUSSAIN,
Dibrugarh

Final say

DESPITE arduous training schedules for the forthcoming Asian Games I cannot see India winning too many medals. The National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala, has not been able to produce many gold medallists. I feel NIS stands for Nothing In Sight!

SUNIL RAMPAL,
New Delhi

ASIAD VENUES

ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982

Handball at the Delhi University Ground

The infrastructures and the new stadia coming up for the Ninth Asian Games will be a boon for the youth of the country and Delhi University's sportsmen will get one such gift from the Games. Handball, a new Asiad sport will be held in sylvan surroundings at the University ground. Though these are not mandatory sports, the message of the Asiad will reach the very doorstep of the student community.

The University complex, used mainly for cricket and athletics, will have a mini modern stadium. This eight acre stretch of open field will provide seating facilities for 5,400 spectators for handball and 1,400 for archery, with new change-rooms, cafeteria, toilets and a Press centre.

This complex built at a cost of Rs. 34 lakhs, was originally slated for only handball but later on archery was also allotted to the University authorities. That led to redrawing of the entire plan. Now the field has been divided into two parts, one for archery and the other for handball. Certain alterations in the seating arrangements have also been made.

The existing building of the University Stadium had a plinth area of 8700 square feet. It has now been extended to provide additional plinth area of 8,400 square feet, in order to provide two

more change-rooms complete with toilets and a massage room, accommodation for medicare, Press Information bureau, the All India Radio and a cafeteria with 80 seats. The existing building will provide necessary accommodation for the federation, offices, a computer terminal, referees' room, a conference room and two change-rooms. The existing seating tiers is also proposed to be extended to accommodate 1,000 seats for VIPs and high denomination ticket holders. Mr S P Goel, engineer of the Delhi University who has been entrusted this job, said that there being a shortage of water in the area a through survey was conducted and an old well at the ground was re-dug. This is expected to solve the water problem. This complex is also expected to provide permanent facilities to

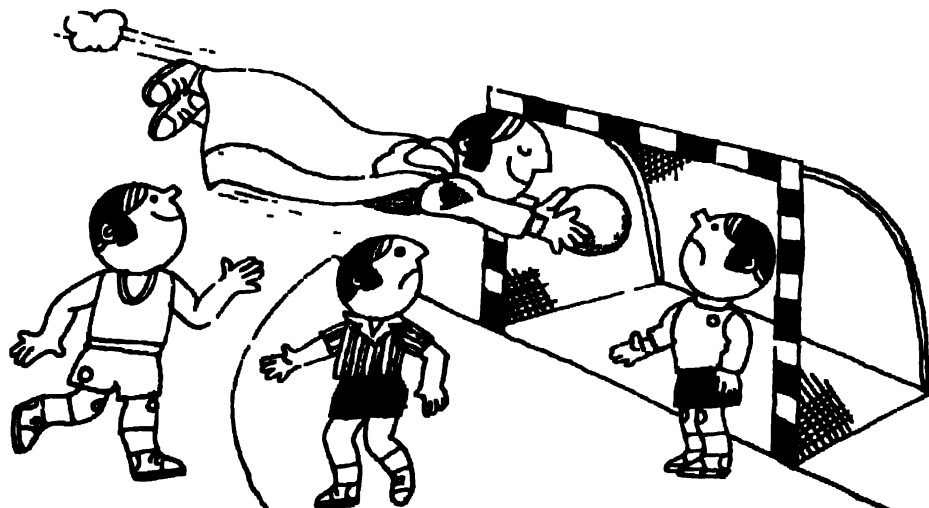
the Delhi University for recreational activities which were sadly lacking.

For the first time in the Asian Games handball as a discipline is being introduced as an official sport. The handball court, which is 20 metres wide with a length of 40 metres will have a synthetic teraflex surface which not only meets international standards but also greatly speeds up this interesting game, considered to be one of the basic sports in European countries. The teraflex surface, however, will have dimensions of 44 metres by 24 metres. This is to assure that the ball does not run into ordinary ground each time it is pushed outside the field of play. The teraflex court—expected to cost Rs two lakhs—on which the actual competitions will be held, and the two practice courts are being

laid just outside the periphery of the main ground so that after the Games the ground can be used for cricket matches.

The French manufactured teraflex court is a gift from Sheikh Fahid of Kuwait, President of the Asian Handball Federation.

Each side plays with a team of seven players and the game is almost like football, except that instead of the feet hands are used in carrying the ball across into the opposite territory. During the Asian Games the handball competition will be contested only by the men. The maximum number of participants from any country are limited to 16 only and the final medals' tally will be 16 gold, 16 silver and 16 bronze. The competition will be held from 23 to 30 November with November 29 being the rest day.



DUNLOP TYRES lead the way

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

FRUIT OF SUCCESS

Ipswich Boys attending the football training course received a surprise. They were each given a grape-fruit, not to eat but to juggle on their knees to acquire skill. Scoring goals said star trainer Alan Brazil, "comes easy after that."

WHIPPING UP ENTHUSIASM

Sydney Norm Waymouth, the rider of champion horse Rancher, was fined \$100 for flourishing his whip as they passed the winning post. He explained to the stewards that he was only waving to his grandma!

STAGING GAMES

London Pupils at a local school gave the first performance of a new musical entitled United We Stand, which combines soccer with women's lib. If you're unemployed or the wife nags, play the game of kicking a bit of leather about in a field. This play with a sporting theme shows how soccer brings people together. Of course, as we all well know it can also keep folks apart.

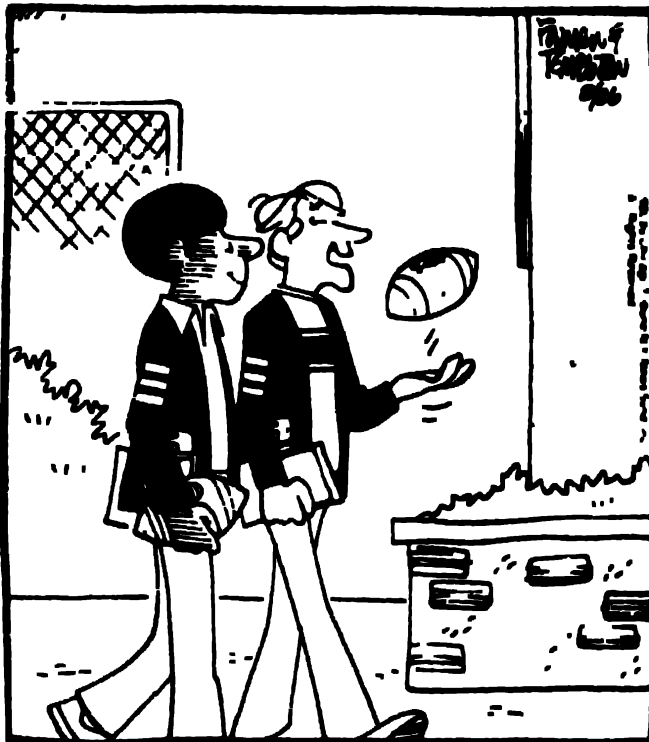
GAMES OF 'KILL

Adelaide Ten members of the Stirling team which plays in the Adelaide Hills Cricket Association competition have been suspended after it was discovered they used a ball doctored with floor polish in a grand final match. This was discovered by scientific tests on the ball after the umpires became suspicious when it did not become damp in wet conditions. The eleventh player was already under suspension for striking the umpire earlier in the game. Despite a secret ballot to find out which of the players had doctored the ball none admitted guilt. Perhaps John we could help?

BERNIE TELLIS



"YOU GOT ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE IT JUST CAME OUTTA THE WATER?"



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"DON'T ASK US TO INCREASE YOUR HANDICAP! YOUR GAME'LL PROBABLY GET BETTER NOW THAT YOU CAN KEEP YOUR LEFT ARM STRAIGHT!"

ALL IN THE GAME

LEAKY BATHERS

Minding your p's and q's

THE British—especially the girls—have made urinating into swimming pools one of their many national pastimes. This 'British disease' has reached appalling proportions and all efforts are being made to stop this underwater urinating spree. The water cannot just stand it and the authorities are reducing bathing sessions to just one and a half hours. As one official puts it, "If people had gone to the toilet before coming to the pool it would certainly have helped the water technologists." Larger amounts of chlorine are being added to the water to neutralise the menace. There are people who feel that it is the chemicals in the water that make the throat tickle and the eyes water. They are mistaken. Instead it is the water-chlorine-urine reaction which causes the problems. If swimmers only knew the scale of urinating that takes place in the pool, one is confident they would never go swimming again.

SWITCHING LOYALTIES

Keegan to play for £100,000

ENGLAND and Southampton's captain, Kevin Keegan, has signed for the second division club Newcastle. The 31-year-old star, as a result of the transfer can expect £100,000 a year, plus salary. His playing at Tyne-side will certainly boost ticket sales as the former double European footballer of the year is a big attraction in England and the Continent. Keegan denied rumours that he had



had a tiff with the Southampton manager Laurie McMenemy and said, "I want a new challenge and I know the passion there is for football in the area." The frizzy haired footballer affirmed that it was his job to make Newcastle great again and his move was not really prompted by the resultant monetary gains. In fact, before going on to make his debut for Newcastle against Queen's Park Rangers Keegan paid his ex-manager a compliment, "As far as I am concerned McMenemy is in the Billy Shankly class." And that's saying something.

STEPPING OVER THE MARK

New rule for goalkeepers

GOALKEEPERS, please note. Under FIFA's new rule—four steps and then you must release the ball. This has already taken many unwary keepers by surprise. The man standing between the posts for an Irish club was blown up for infringing the rule. He did it again and this time the referee

had to stop the game and explain. Li Fu Sheng the goalkeeper of China's national team did the same. In a match against Ibrox he collected the ball, took a few steps, rolled it forward, picked it up, rolled it again—and 'peep'—he was astonished. However after a few laughs early in the season goalkeepers will soon adjust. One hopes that the new rule will help do away with time wasting tactics, speed up the game and penalise people like Dino Zoff who took as many as 39 steps in the World Cup final at Madrid. The Italian captain was not penalised. This only goes to prove that the man with the whistle is frightened to apply the new rules.



STUD FOLLOWS SETBACKS

Golden Fleece retires

REMEMBER Golden Fleece. The horse that gave trainer Vincert O'Brien his sixth Derby triumph at Epsom in early June. The unbeaten Nijinsky colt will not race again and instead will re-

tire to the Coolmore Stud in Tipperary. A few weeks before the Epsom win it was announced that Pat Eddery's mount was suffering from a nasal discharge and even after the race there was doubt of the colt taking part in mid summer races. The colt's problem did not end here. It was soon affected by slight lameness in a hind leg. Even after a Derby win and defeating Assert twice O'Brien's charge was criticised on the ground that in its four outings it has always been up against weak opposition. Nonetheless, Golden Fleece retires with the highest value ever placed on a stud for a European based stallion.

SPORTS COLLECTING

A sign of the gifted

American psychologists have concluded (one is not sure how valid their conclusions are) that collecting is a sign of the gifted. So there is no need for people in the U.S. to apologise anymore for filling up boxes and basements with pins, programmes, photographs, books, games and the most popular—cards, all relating to baseball. Mel Purcell the tennis professional, collects batting helmets and wears them at tennis tournaments. A gentleman by the name of Bert Sugar who is the editor of *The Sports Collectors Bible*, has among other things the original cornerstone from the Yankee Stadium in the driveway of his home and Babe Ruth's contracts from 1918 to 1932. Like philatelists sports collectors go to unusual lengths in pursuit of their objective. One collector who had heard about a 'little old lady' who discovered baseball cards in her attic called on her and it was soon discovered that the cards were golden oldies. He paid \$7,000. Money well spent, we suppose?

How Jimmy and I won Wimbledon together

These extracts are from the book "Chrissie", by NEIL AMDUR, published by Methuen. Chris Lloyd tells how she and Connors—engaged to her at the time—pulled off their incredible double together

DURING a rain delay on the third day of the 1980 Wimbledon championships, two very nice English mums and an American woman were passing the time under their 'brollies' on the top row of Court three at the All-England Club. Then rainy-day subjects, I later learned, were Jimmy Connors and Chris Ivert.

The three women had decided, after much discussion, that Jimmy was a modern day Peter Pan—full of life, excitement, loving all the children and chasing the Captain Hooks of tennis by making every match a new adventure. I was the perfect Wendy, they reasoned, rescued by Peter from the humdrum world of childhood, taught fun in tennis. Never. Never I and and totally devoted to Peter.

Anyone who sat through the 1974 Wimbledon tournament must have thought they were witnessing a fairy tale—as if destiny had swept Jimmy and me into Never-Never Land.

I believe in destiny. While practising and winning tournaments as a junior, I felt that I was head and shoulders above most of the girls my age because I practised harder than they did. Something wonderful would happen if I improved, I told myself, and my temperament and determination would help me succeed. My career also seemed blessed by occasions that defied logic. I caught Margaret Court with a virus and surprised her in Charlotte shortly after she completed her Grand Slam in 1970. Then came the endless summer of '71 that wound up at Forest Hills. Bumping into Jimmy at Wimbledon in 1972 eased some of the uncertainties of travelling abroad and started us on a romantic road. But nothing rivalled Wimbledon '74 because it happened so unexpectedly. When events finally came together, who's to say it wasn't fate?

I never thought I had a chance to

win Wimbledon that year. I had not beaten Billie Jean or Evonne on grass courts. I had been engaged to Jimmy for seven months, but didn't know how it would affect us at a major championship like Wimbledon.

Learning to cope with peers and the adult world required adjustments for all players. Despite being ambitious and career-oriented, Billie Jean was married at twenty-one. 'I can't believe that I got married then,' she would say, when I brought up my November wedding date with Jimmy.

'But it was the pressure society put on me at the time. You know, a woman should get married.'

At fifteen, after I beat Margaret Court, some members of the media were already asking how long I planned to play. I would say, 'No longer than age twenty-one. Then for sure, I want to get married and have kids.' But with Virginia Slims offering \$935,000 in prize money for its eighteen tournaments in 1974, young players weren't in a hurry to settle down.

I came into the 1974 Wimbledon championships with a string of thirty straight singles victories that had spanned six tournaments. Two of those were the French and Italian Opens, which I had lost in 1973. This time, I beat Martina, 6-3, 6-3, in the final at Rome and Olga, 6-1, 6-2, in Paris for my first French title.

Wimbledon has a way of bringing everything into focus, and I could just as easily have lost in the opening round. Lesley Hunt was my opponent and we waited through the usual rain delays and then battled to 9 all in the third set before darkness forced a postponement. It was almost like a page from one of those adventure novels where the outcome is in doubt and 'to be continued' comes up. The next morning, Jimmy and I had a crisp practice session, and it paid off

because I broke Lesley's serve when the match resumed, held my own and won in six minutes, 8-6, 5-7, 11-9, after fretting all night.

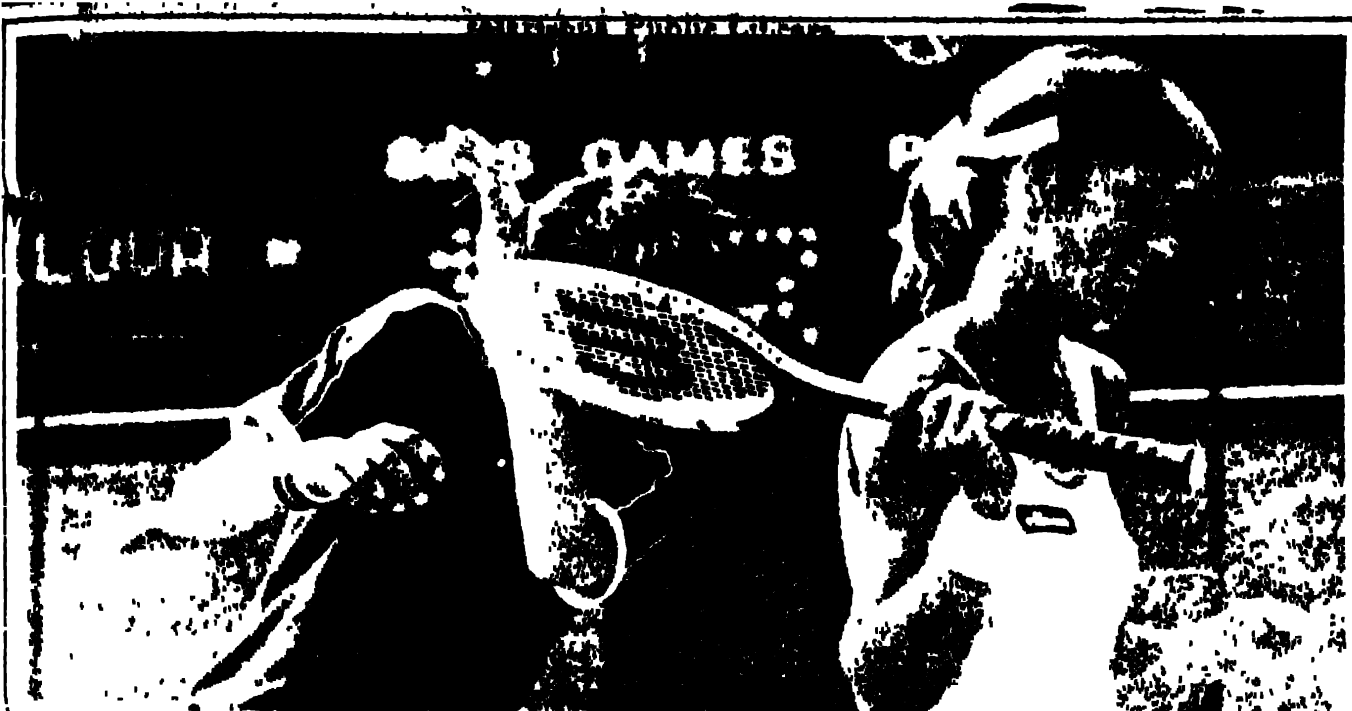
Jimmy also had his early problems. He went four sets with Ove Bengtson of Sweden in the first round and then outlasted Phil Dent of Australia, 10-8, in the fifth. If Wimbledon had used tiebreakers then, who knows whether Jimmy would have survived?

It was a strange Wimbledon. The daily BBC telecasts of the tournament were periodically blacked out because of labour strikes, and it rained so long and so often that play on six of the ten days began at noon instead of two o'clock. The Nastase received service one day holding an umbrella and was chastised by the umpire, but everyone thought he made his point.

The wet weather didn't dampen my spirits. Jimmy and I were together, I was playing well, we tried to watch each other's tournament on the same day. Was somebody on my side up there in those dark clouds? How else could Kerry Melville have beaten Evonne on grass and Olga snap Billie Jean's fifteen-match Wimbledon streak? It was like the silver plate was being offered to me on a silver platter, if I wanted to fight for it.

Jimmy and I had thought about the possibility of winning Wimbledon together, but we weren't obsessed with it, and the odds-makers had us at 33-to-1 as a 'love double'. Bill Riordan who split about \$20,000 with Pancho Segura from betting on Jimmy in singles, never got around to betting us, but others did.

'Wouldn't it be great if we could both win it?' I said to Jimmy over dinner one night in The Rib Room of the Carlton Towers. Jimmy had taken me there on our first date two years before, and we decided to celebrate anniversaries at the same



Jimmy Lloyd swats at an errant bee

spot whenever possible.

I beat Kerry in the semi final and then had a pretty good suspicion that I could win the title after Olga ended Virginia Wade's hope of reaching her first Wimbledon final. I had never lost to Olga, we had taken the Italian and French Open doubles together, and I knew her game well. I won, 6-0, 6-4.

My dad still ranks Wimbledon '74 as the highlight of my career. When I phoned him in Florida after the match, he was sobbing, so choked up emotionally he could barely talk. To my dad, Wimbledon was the pinnacle of the sport. He had never expected his children to achieve this distinction, and his tears that day told me how much it meant to him.

Jimmy beat Ken Rosewall in the men's final, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4, and went on to his best year as a pro. 'Nobody will ever have a year like I had in 1974,' he has said on numerous occasions. Some people have suggested that Jimmy's success was due to our engagement, but he was far ahead of everyone that year.

Jimmy and I coordinated our schedules as much as we could to be together. Before Wimbledon, we saw each other on the average of about ten days a month. I was committed to the Virginia Slims circuit and Jimmy was on the men's tour. We would play two weeks and then have a rest week, if I wasn't playing, I tried to go with Jimmy to his tournaments, and he used his rest weeks to meet me.

I had always been attracted to outgoing types because it took that kind of man to bring out the fun in me. Jimmy brought me out of my shell and never allowed our relationship to affect his attitude. Some people saw Jimmy as outspoken,

controversial and at times even vulgar with his blunt language or flamboyant gestures on the court. When we were alone, he was a quiet, gentle man, someone who treated women almost as if they were fragile—opening car doors, sending flowers, writing letters. Most men are not like that, and his sensitivity may have come from the close relationship with his mother, yet few outsiders saw that tenderness, on the court, Jimmy was feisty to the end. To reveal such sensitivity may, in his mind, have been construed as a weakness.

It wasn't until after the women's final that I learned about the Wimbledon ball. Mary Hardwick Here, a former British player of the 1930s, told my mother about the proceedings and the first dance of the two singles champions.

'If I'm too tired, do I have to go?' I asked. My mother listened to Mary explain the tradition and ceremony attached to the affair and its importance. After Jimmy beat Rosewall, I rushed back to King's Road, bought a dress that I liked and then hurriedly found some modish stiletto shoes. High heels were 'in' at the time, so I picked out these shoes with skinny, six-inch heels. There's no way I would ever wear them now because they're too dangerous, but at the time, I thought they would make me look taller.

Two hours before the ball, I was informed I had to make a speech. That's when panic set in. I've always considered myself a good debater, but I'm not comfortable making speeches at formal affairs. It's much easier for me to sit in a Press room after a match and mull over a question than deliver a talk in front of several hundred people. Most of the

time, the speeches at the Wimbledon ball are little more than thanking the committee, your parents and friends. Janet Haas even wrote a few of my speeches at some tournaments. But committee members are sensitive about all aspects of a player's involvement—from conduct on the court to appearing at an awards ceremony or banquet. Jimmy learned this at Wimbledon in 1977 when the Centre Court crowd booed him after he skipped the opening day Parade of Champions for the centennial celebration. John McEnroe also got a dose of committee feelings when they rejected his membership into the All-England Club after he skipped the 1981 champions' dinner. John's absence didn't make my job, as an American champion, any easier at the dinner.

Fortunately, Jimmy kept me loose at my first Wimbledon ball. We slipped notes to each other behind the back of Sir Brian Burnett, the chairman of the All-England Club, who was seated between us.

'Look at that blonde lady over there,' Jimmy wrote. 'Watch her twitch when she blinks.'

Before I got up to give my speech, I passed Jimmy a note that read, 'I'm sweating so badly.' He went into one of his impish smiles, got down with his left hand on the table and then scribbled back, 'Keep cool.'

I survived the speech. The band leader then asked what song we preferred for the first dance. 'Play whatever you want,' we told him.

The band played 'The Girl That I Marry', everyone clapped, and Jimmy's boyish grin returned. If it had been a traditional fairy tale, Jimmy and I would have waltzed into the sunset and lived happily ever after. But this is a true story.

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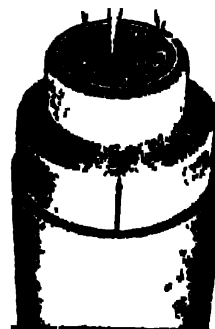
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INDIAN HOCKEY

Yes-men are ruining the game

Skeletons seem to have a way of falling out of the IHF cupboard. After Mr Jhaman Lal Sharma's detailed account of the treatment meted out to his team, the controversies arose once more. But the frightening thing is that this is nothing new; it has been going on for years and will continue to do so unless radical changes in the system are implemented.

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT reports

AFTER Mr Jhaman Lal Sharma's statement revealing the shabby treatment that India's World Cup team received at Bombay Indian Hockey again stands scandalised. The prompt rejoinder of the Indian Hockey Federation secretary, Mr K. I. Passi, repudiating the dismissed team manager's charges, makes little difference.

What is wrong with Indian hockey? Skeletons have a way of coming out of its cupboard only in times of defeat. Starting from our attitude to the game there is a lot that is wrong down the line. A new generation has grown up for whom the glories won over a quarter century ago are mere inside tales. The hockey world has undergone an unrecognisable change since then. It would do us a lot of good if we shed the attitude

that leads us to believe that we have a special right to the world's major hockey prizes.

The administration is blamed, the selectors are criticised, financial irregularities are exposed. But let there be one international success and everything is forgotten as though nothing was ever wrong.

There is a crisis of character. What prevented Mr Sharma from speaking the truth earlier? Would he have criticised the people he has now attacked had his team won the World Cup at Bombay? Or would he have cared to say all that he has now said had he continued as manager? However, stories like teams being forced to put up in dormitories under staircases with water seeping from the ceiling are nothing new in Indian hockey. Even as the five-star culture

is spreading the Indian hockey player remains condemned to the age of 'dhabas'.

The trouble is we don't learn. The player continues to be treated the same way even now when the IHF is flushed with funds collected from the Indo-Pak Test series. Surely, a better place could have been found for the Asian Games probabilities to stay in than the change rooms at the New Delhi National Stadium where they have been training. It is hardly an inspiring sight to see them having to find bathrooms with water in the taps. Nothing prevents the federation from spending a few thousand or even a lakh of rupees of its own money to supplement the daily allowance the Education Ministry sanctions to players in training camps. All that money in the bank has been



Players receive blessings at the Hanuman Mandir in New Delhi before the Indian team's departure for Europe; the trouble was about to begin.

Mahajan's opponents

The presidency of the Indian Hockey Federation is a thorn in crown. Yet such is its lure that covetous eyes are already being cast at it even before it has taken its seat. Mr Mahajan, the president, whose tenure was in danger of coming to an abrupt end following disclosures of alleged financial irregularities, has gained a fresh lease of life

For long now the Indian Hockey Federation has been divided on North-South lines. When Mr. Mahanian ran into trouble the North seemed to have sensed that Mr. M. A. M. Ramaswamy had again become interested in the presidency he had once given up. According to one prominent member of the IHL executive from the North, the wealthy Mr. Ramaswamy has shown clear signs of his willingness to stage a comeback.

But the North, which does not think much of the hockey in the South this time, are determined to see that they are not deprived of Indian hockey's top post by the moneybags of Ramaswamy.

The North also will put up someone with money and power should the need arise according to the member, who would not like to be identified Mr Anwarul Singh MP, son of the late

Maharaja of Patiala is being mentioned in some circles as a possible candidate. The name of Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia of Gwalior also an M.P. has also been heard in this context.

The North sensed danger when they came to know of Mr Ramaswamy's keenness to get himself re-elected as FII vice president. One still remembers the no holds barred fight for power in 1975, with the IOA delaying the takeover by Ramaswamy after the exit of Mr. Ashwan Kumar. The World Cup that year at Kuala Lumpur was won in spite of the unprecedented convulsions that the federation experienced. Later both the IOA and Mr Ramaswamy claimed credit for the triumph. Mr Ramaswamy actually joined the Indian team in the lap of honour after the final.

The Mahajan file had reportedly lain pending on the Home Minister's table for a long time till Mr. Venkatraman took over after Giani Zail Singh's election as President. The new Home Minister took little time to decide that top police officers like Mr. Mahajan, who is an Inspector General in the Central Industrial Security Force should be busy with more important matters than hockey. In any case, it was an embarrassment for an IG to be dragged into such matters as alleged financial irregularities of a hockey federation. Government service rules

were invoked to ask Mr. Mahajan to resign from the IHT.

But Mr Mahajan, who is due to retire from the police in less than a month, seems to have been playing for time till some one with the right connections, and "pull" poke up for him in the right place. It is reported this was done for him by the IOA. The order asking Mr Mahajan to resign as IIE president was withdrawn temporarily and permission restored to enable him to attend the FIE meeting at Kuala Lumpur. The IOA reportedly argued that nothing should be done to disturb the state of affairs till the Asian Games are over. Who knows what will happen then? Mr Mahajan would have retired from his government job by then. India may even win the gold medal and then in the euphoria everything may be forgotten and forgiven. Who knows.

Nothing succeeds like success as the saying goes. If only India had won the World Cup at Bombay, no one would have taken notice of Mr. Mahajan's alleged faults of omission and commission. In fact, he might even have been praised for so cleverly looking after the interests of Indian hockey. To hell with rules and vouchers and all those damned pieces of paper the accountants are so fond of.

A CORRESPONDENT

spring 1981

The presence of a selector who has a son as a contender for a berth in the team is not the right thing to happen. Charanjit Kumar, son of selector Raj Kumar, in fact was named as a World Cup probable last May even though he had not participated in the inter zonal tournament, performances in which were supposed to have been the basis of selection. He had been included on the word of the chairman Mahajan that he was satisfied with the lad's form during an earlier Police tournament at Madras. Selectors have not only got to be actually fair, they must also appear to be so. Charanjit Kumar's selection in the World Cup team was resented by the other probables at the Patiala trials, though for obvious reasons nobody openly raised his voice. Jhaman Lal Sharma has now spoken out—at last.

If selectors have to be reduced to the status of yes-men, then it would be better if the whole system underwent a change. These are days of professional management in sport where national teams are looked after by managers. Leave the task of team formation to the manager who should be made accountable for his

round by the sweat of the players. If nothing else, the federation could at least have a couple of ball pickers up there for practice games are not held up too long. When will we learn to be more attentive to our players without a real pumping or fusing over them like we do to our excited customers? Do we have to wait for God forbid another defeat, for some sacked manager to expose such things all over again? But then this is merely one aspect.

Though sectors cannot be totally blamed for the declining fortunes of our team, the one time they cannot scrape the tin altogether. A good sector need not necessarily be a long-term international player. More important parties would be involved in the two, particularly which would call them to stand up for my view. It is unfortunate, as in the case with our Olympic player, director may or whom I've been known to be so much to becoming chairman of the Selection Committee on addition to be my expression. The End of Book, Federalism 2, 1974, March, and set in it, we should be to see the selectors who are not a good lot. An old friend of mine, the Malaysian coach,

the ways of our selectors

Unfortunately, Mr. Mahajan also was kept company by weak ves men in his selection committee. Or else he would not have been able to have his way when he dropped Baskaran from the inter-zonal tournament last summer before the selection of 44 World Cup probables. The south zone selectors dropped the 1980 Moscow Olympics captain at the hint of a "hukam from the top" as one of them said. It is a sad commentary on our hockey that even the south zone team selectors unthinkingly bowed to the autocratic wishes of the persons who had sent the "hukam". Nothing in writing. Still it was a "hukam" to be carried out.

This happened at a time when the selectors were not sure of finding an adequate left-half. Baskaran was ostensibly dropped because he was 'slow'. But the real reason was different. He had acquired a personality which had enabled him to raise his voice for a more decent deal for Indian hockey players. He is reported to have been described as 'under-captured' - a 'dada' - simply because he had demanded a better deal for the Indian players to travel to India when the Soviet team was here in

Musical chairs

SUBHASH SARCAR

THERE was was praise galore for Mr Inder Mohan Mahajan when he donned the mantle of the president of the Indian Hockey Federation and vowed that he would set the troubled, house in order. Not long after he had said this, Vasudevan Baskaran, who had captained the gold-medal winning team at the Moscow Olympics

Predictably enough, this led to an uproar in the hockey fraternity, for the new president was following his predecessors in the true sense of the word. It was not the first time in the history of Indian hockey that a captain had been axed after a major tournament

It certainly seemed as if there was no long-term planning being done. Mahajan dropped Baskaran during the inter-zonal camps and explained that he had found a better replacement in Sujit Kumar of Uttar Pradesh. But Mahajan's line of reasoning proved to be faulty because his candidate did not even find a place in the national side, as Gurmail Singh manned the left-half position on the European tour.

The latter thus displaced both Sujit Kumar and Onkar Singh and performed well enough to hold his place for the 'Test' series against Pakistan. Then, during the fifth World Cup, something inexplicable happened. Onkar Singh suddenly found a place in the first eleven, displacing Gurmail while Sujit Kumar was dropped altogether from the final 16. It is common knowledge that this is one of the major reasons why fared India fared miserably in Bombay.

To begin with, the federation dropped Surinder Singh Sodhi after the Bombay World Cup in favour of Parminder, who later emerged as the top-scorer for India in the Asia Cup at Karachi which followed. Parminder's inclusion in the national squad was the result of his excellent performance in the Hockey Nationals in Calcutta. But that was not the end of the story. Parminder was sidelined and the IHF, ludicrously enough reinstated Sodhi as the captain.

Several questions were raised after this took place. Was Sodhi's reinstatement master-



Romeo James—conceded the most goals

mined by the strong Punjab lobby in the federation? Or was he given the job simply to block the chances of aspirants from other States? Another very relevant question pertains to Surjit Singh, another former India captain. Was he also given the choice of quitting in preference to being axed?

The Indian team went to Amsterdam for the Champions Trophy, but stopped off in Dubai where they played two matches. Performances in Dubai were none too impressive. One line of reasoning is that no alternative was thought of when national coach Harmik Singh was given the sack. Three weeks passed before the federation appointed Balbir Singh, Punjab's Sports Director, as the chief coach. In the interim, no one bothered to check on the probabilities and for the moment, their training was neglected. More important is the fact that the Sports Director had practically no time to assess the abilities of the various players. In this light, then, was our performance at Amsterdam really such a surprise?

Then again, on the same tour, Marcelus Gomes of Bombay was not given any real chances to prove himself and was omitted immediately after their return. However, he has one consolation as he is on the list of the Asiad probables.

Whatever be the case, all the

team members remained in a state of fear. Any awkward questions on their part would have culminated in the humiliation of being dropped. In this kind of atmosphere, no one spoke out on the subject of daily allowances for the players during the World Cup. The allowances were not given, yet Mr Mahajan ran up an enormous hotel bill. Players did not have the courage to demand their allowance, for fear of being chopped.

The players have had to put up with a lot since the Jullundur Nationals. How could one demand the best from the players while submitting them to continuous rigours with not even a month's rest between various training camps and tours. All this has also taken its toll—mentally and physically—on the players.

India did manage to sparkle when they beat Pakistan in the recent Champions Trophy but there is no reason for complacency even though India finished third after conceding the maximum number of goals (20) at Amsterdam. In Bombay, Holland beat India 4-3 while Australia edged out India, 2-1 but in the Champions Trophy the respective margins were 5-2 and 7-2.

Another glaring omission dealt with the fielding of the goalkeeper at Amsterdam. Negi and Mandapakka were chosen to do duty in goal with ASC's Romeo James as standby. When Negi opted out after sustaining an injury at Dubai, the number one spot should have gone to his lieutenant, Mandapakka, instead of which Romeo James was elevated to the limelight. The reasons, it appears, is not too hard to find. Is it merely a coincidence that coach Balbir Singh (Jr) and James are both ASC personnel? What loyalty this, at the cost of the country's reputation?

After the Champions Trophy, sixteen more trainees were included in the Patiala camp which was supposed to be a conditioning camp. Surprisingly, not one of the selectors was present for 15 days and altogether ten players were given a raw deal. Mandapakka was one of them. He was unceremoniously dropped after he was hospitalised following a car accident. Realising that he would not be able to attend the camp, he cabled the person concerned about his inability to report at the camp. But someone, somewhere, feels that even the most genuine of reasons is not good enough.

actions to the federation. He should be a full time man who should not only look after the coaching of the team but also scout for talent and have the authority of summoning any player to his camp.

No harm will be done if selectors are rendered redundant. In fact, it may prove to be good riddance. In any case, even now the number of players at camps are pruned down or added to without the selectors meeting to take decisions. When they do get together it is more a formality than anything else. At most, they watch trial games for a day or two. Some of them do not care to do even that. The man who is really competent to select or sack is the manager or manager-coach who has been closely watching the players for weeks and months.

The manager should also have the power to summon help from other coaches or specialists. In fact, this is exactly how the Punjab Government prepared the World Cup winning team at Chandigarh in 1975 when the Indian Olympic Association had to step in to sponsor India's entry after the IHO had been temporarily derecognised by the world body. Balbir Singh managed that team with G S Bodhi as coach. Balbir was free to set up a "brains trust", which he did with great profit as the results at Kuala Lumpur showed. He invited coaches to seek their opinion and

help, but the final decision was always his or Bodhi's. One doubts if a strong manager of power and responsibility would have allowed Baskaran to be left out last year.

Balbir Singh is again at work with the team. But being a busy Director of Sports in the Punjab Government at Chandigarh, will he be able to devote all his time to the players' training on the brand new synthetic turf at New Delhi?

The very first decision taken by the IHF under Mr Mahajan was the most unfortunate one. It was not to continue with Balkrishan Singh as coach of the team. After long years of coaching and success at Moscow, Balkrishan had acquired the stature for the job of manager-coach. But he was overlooked in favour of the untried Harmik Singh. A professional coach, he had acquired a respectable seniority and a deep knowledge of the styles of the leading teams of the world, especially Australia where he had been on coaching assignments.

Mahajan's new set-up took a dim view of our Moscow team and decided to make a complete break with the past. Continuity has been the first casualty with every change of regime. Mahajan's IHF even with drew the team from the 1981 Champions Trophy tournament at Karachi. Indian hockey has paid dearly for those hasty decisions dictated by

prejudice rather than prudence. When the IHF realised the folly of those decisions it was too late. They made a bid for Balkrishan's services after the Asia Cup at Karachi last March. But the All-India Women's Hockey Association would not agree to relieve him from his duties as coach of the national women's hockey team.

The IHF has a coaching committee under Gian Singh. But Gian Singh is a bitter man. The committee exists only on paper, or "Naam ke wastey". Not once has it met to chart out a plan or strategy. The coaching committee could have been the brains trust mentioned earlier. But Gian Singh has been completely ignored.

Crises of character and leadership are not the only reasons for Indian hockey's lack of success. It is equally true that players of class are no longer being produced, players like the giants of the past. Maybe this is a passing phase. One can only hope that it draws to a swift end and a new generation of truly classy players starts emerging. Before that happens, the administration of the game will have to reform itself so that the player, for whose benefit it exists, gets a better deal. Right now it is so bad that players with years of hockey still before them feel it humiliating to be associated with national teams. Let there be no more Grewals.

BHA on the streets

OVER the years the Bengal Hockey Association (BHA) has had a chequered career—glory on one hand, controversy on the other, and one wonders when it will finally follow a straight course. While other State associations have forged ahead, the BHA has been bogged down and has failed to get out of the swamp of criticism. Matters reached a climax when the once illustrious association found itself without a home. The Office Sports Federation which has lodged the BHA free of cost for over a decade, finally decided that enough was enough and threw the BHA out. Put in a quandary, officials are now running from pillar to post looking for new premises. They have approached both the State Government and the Sports Department for help. Till the time of going to press the BHA has not been successful in acquiring a room to house its office. There are reasons enough to believe that the BHA is to blame for the predicament in which it now finds itself.

First of all, the dank and dark dilapidated building was unfit to house the hockey association. The appearance itself left a bad taste in the mouth and one feels that the malfunctioning of the BHA matched its office atmosphere. Naturally, most visitors avoided the place. There was no earnest effort by the predecessors of the present officials to look for another place and the present secretary had once said that he was frantically searching for an office close to the maidan. Probably, the secretary had sensed the problem a couple of years ago. But the axe fell, and the BHA was on the streets.

People are still talking of getting Bengal hockey out of the quagmire. How can a solution be found when the association is plagued by a number of drawbacks. It is plagued by legal suits filed by one of its affiliates and, at the moment, the BHA officials, it is learnt, are facing contempt of court proceedings. Then again, elections are long overdue and cannot be held because of a court case.

But the present body has been endeavouring enough to salvage some of the lost prestige. Mr Inder Mohan Mahajan, the IHF

chief, despite the bad reputation he has at the moment was instrumental in allotting the first sub-junior hockey Nationals—and the Indo-Pakistan hockey 'Test' to the BHA. As a result, the association, for the first time, could put some money into its empty coffer. It was a long time since Calcutta Staged the Hockey Nationals and with some money in the bank the BHA bid to stage the Nationals and got it. If they can now get hold of a room for their office, things can improve.

The association has frequently been criticised for Bengal's appalling performances in the national competitions. The ever-ready excuse always is that the BHA has a short season and has no ground of its own. But certainly we can expect a better brand of hockey in the future since the BHA has at last been able to acquire a ground next to the East Bengal Club through the State Government. Presently, the Machine Manufacturing Corporation (MMC) has volunteered to level the uneven ground so that some coaching schemes can also be implemented.

SUBHASH SARGAR

Profile

Laurie not 'pottering' around

MURRAY HEDGCOCK meets England's man of the future

LAURIE POTTER, one of the bright new hopes of Kent cricket, hasn't spent a winter in England since he was three—and, at 19, he's not too sure how he will get on in 1982/83.

'The start of the season in April is pretty rough, when you need four sweaters and tracksuit trousers under your creams,' he mused. 'But I suppose I'll manage—unless anyone makes me an offer to go back to Australia for the winter. Nobody has done yet.'

Born at Besleyheath the three-year-old Potter was taken to Australia by his electrician father Ron and mother Megan and after moving from Adelaide to Perth to Queensland finished his schooling at Kelmscott Senior High School but, as he admits with a grin, he was so wrapped up in cricket that he did not distinguish himself in class. As he filled out into a solidly built, athletic teenager, his energies were concentrated on the example of the great Australian batsman Norman O'Neill running cricket clinics in Perth.

'I've never consciously modelled myself on any particular player, but Norm is the man I learned most from,' says Potter today.

He began his club cricket with West Perth primarily as a medium

pace left-arm bowler, but his sound batting technique pushed him up the ladder to the opening spot. Ron Potter never forgot his Kentish background, and his hope always was that his son would one day play for the County. Three years ago he wrote to the county club to ask if they would look at the boy qualified by birth for Kent, despite his Australian upbringing.

'You don't turn anyone away. You have a look at anybody who is recommended,' says current Kent manager Brian Luckhurst, who was handling the Seconds in 1979.

The Potters came back to England for the first time to visit family and friends, and after 16-year-old Laurie had played a couple of club and ground matches, the sharp-eyed Luckhurst had seen enough. 'He looked very good, so we asked him to come to Kent on a match basis. He had an aunt at Teynham, three miles from my home at Sittingbourne, so he stayed there and I would pick him up and drive him to matches and keep an eye on him.'

A year on a match basis was succeeded by a year's contract, and then a two-year contract. 'We rate him very highly,' is Luckhurst's simple summary.

Potter made his first-class debut last season, but really came to notice when he hit a splendid double of 96 and 118 against the touring Indians.

'It was a good track, and a fast

outfield—OK for batting,' is as much as you will get out of the modest Potter about those two knocks which had the critics nothing his name as a genuine hope for tomorrow.

There was just one doubt to be resolved: was Laurie Potter English, or Australian? After all, he had captained the 1981 Under 19 Australian team to Pakistan, the same year he played for Young England against Young India.

Laurie Potter has no problems in answering 'I'm English. I've chosen to play cricket here, and that's it,' he says firmly.

When he came to Lord's for the Kent-Middlesex match at the end of July, it was the first time he had even seen a match there; his only previous visit had been a brief evening meeting with a friend on the ground staff. He marked his debut with a century after giving one chance in an innings that was he-calmed at times, but overall demonstrated sound technique, with an array of attacking strokes that brought 108 in 41 hours.

West Indies and Middlesex pace bowler Wayne Daniel summed up: 'He's pretty good for 19. He played the quicks well, got into position, and wasn't bothered by the short stuff.'

There is talk of Peter May reflected in the Potter style, but hard-headed Luckhurst is quick to put that argument into perspective. 'You couldn't really say he looks like May, but he certainly enjoys hitting the ball and playing with the same sort of aggression that Peter showed,' he suggests. 'His strength is that he plays shots on either side of the wicket, off front and back foot. He's amazingly mature for someone so young—and he's a very nice lad with it.'

Laurie Potter still has to win a regular place in the Kent team which is going through change that will be stepped up in the next season or so as more of the older players stand down. He is content to take it steadily, and shies away from suggestions that he must be a Test hopeful in the reasonable future.

Brian Luckhurst is much more forthright. 'If England had a settled pair of openers, then they could take Laurie to learn the trade on tour. As it is, when they're still looking for a second Test opener, then it might not be quite the time for him to go to Australia. Mind you, he still could be picked—and he wouldn't let the side down. After all, he's seen Australia, he knows it, he'd feel at home there.'

In other words, Laurie Potter might still be spared the English winter if that same Peter May and his colleagues decide to gamble on a young man who must surely play for England one day—however much his old mates in Perth might barrack him for wearing the wrong colours.



Laurie Potter—international cricketer

Courtesy Wisden Cricket Monthly

SUSPENSE EVERY INCH OF THE WAY

It was another 'what next?' match, which England managed to win by three wickets and with that the series. Imran Khan with his customary utility showed what captaincy can do to a man, Botham proving that he was not way behind in the game, Gower staying around for a respectable amount, Fowler promising for the future and Mudassar showing his true colours as a shock bowler.

PAUL FITZPATRICK reports

THERE was no surplus of generosity on the first day of the third and final Comhill Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley. The cricket was hard and mean. A Test cricket is meant to be the lavish stroke was rare and at the close, with Pakistan 255 for eight, both sides could look back on their efforts with a degree of satisfaction.

The wicket was of no great pace but throughout encouraged movement off the seam. The threatened

rain, save for a few drops failed to arrive but there were clouds and the ball moved in the air, if nothing like as alarmingly as it can do here. A total of 250 it seemed, was considered commendable and more than useful and Pakistan are now in excess of such a score. That was reward for a lot of determined batting. But the English bowlers and Jackman above all, were reluctant to give anything away.

This would have been a good

opportunity for Pingle to have shown just how good a bowler he really is but he was the victim of a freakish mishap on the preceding Wednesday night when after writing a letter he sat up straight, stretched, and injured his back. That brought in Marks for his first Test but he bowled only five overs and did not impress. It was a seam bowler's wicket.

On the eve of the match Bob Willis, England's captain had said that

Fowler is bowled in the first innings for only nine runs while Tavaré watches from the other end



someone other than himself and Botham would be doing the donkey-work. The donkey proved to be Jackman and if, after this performance, he does not win a place on this winter's tour of Australia there is no justice left. Jackman was brought on to bowl at the Kirkstall Lane End just after noon and was not given a rest until 5.40 p.m. when the shadows were beginning to lengthen.

During that time he took three wickets and could have had more. He attacked the batsmen on and around off stump and maintained, hour after hour and for 35 consecutive overs, an unwavering, searching length and line. He beat the bat frequently but had little luck.

It was a devoted piece of bowling, a tribute to his stamina and intelligence, an effort that showed him to be in complete control of all the mechanics of his trade. Jackman went to the West Indies last year as a replacement for Willis and let no body down. He has surely earned his passage to Australia even at 37.

The only blot on his labours was his gesture when he dismissed Wasim Bari, who earlier had given a catch off his bowling to Gower at first slip but had survived. When Wasim Bari heaved wildly at a straight ball and had his stumps turned, Jackman flung out his left arm to point out the vicinity of the pavilion. Jackman is full of gestures, the majority of them stemming from an unquenchable enthusiasm and a sense of humour; this one was gratuitous and incurred an immediate reprimand from his captain.

The question that surfaced was how well the Pakistani bowlers would perform on a wicket which, if the weather held, would begin to lose its moisture and play more easily.

It was England who took first tricks, dismissing Mohsin and Mansoor for only 19. Mohsin departed spitting blood—and possibly feathers—after being adjudged caught when he attempted to hook Botham and the ball went into Taylor's hands by way of the batsman's mouth, which required stitches.

In the next over Willis dug in a delivery at Mansoor, the ball lifted, perhaps, less than the batsman anticipated, and the cramped, anxious defensive stroke succeeded only in giving a simple catch to short leg.

Mudassar and Javed now wrested back the initiative by virtue of more than two hours of grafting batting that realised 100 runs. Javed never looked entirely comfortable throughout his long innings and he played and missed often but Mudassar, after his failures at Edgbaston and a modest batting performance at Lord's, was near his best. He played one of the finest strokes of the day, a magnificent hook off his eyebrows off Willis and he was looking well established when he was bowled from a



Ian Botham displaying his instincts by sending this one towards the boundary. He was to make 57 in 59 minutes in the second innings.

sung delivery of full length by Botham

Again, as in the morning, one dismissal was followed swiftly by another, again in the next over Jackman was now well launched into his long spell and was rewarded with the wicket of Zaheer, playing carelessly at one of the few wide deliveries that Jackman howled all day Taylor, moving in front of first slip, took the catch comfortably

Majid stayed long enough to secure the 16 runs needed for him to overtake Hanif Mohammed as Pakistan's highest Test run scorer, before becoming Jackman's second victim, trapped leg before on the back foot on a wicket where it was wiser to remain on the front

The wickets fell in pairs all day and eight runs later Javed, who had never quite discovered his timing, was caught brilliantly in the covers by Fowler off Willis, trying to turn the ball through mid wicket and instead squirting it up on the off-side from a thick edge

The ground fielding of Fowler, fast and enthusiastic and good enough to oust Randall from the cover position, was one of the day's outstanding features

Wasim Bari survived that catch to slip, clubbed some useful runs and then departed when he played a shot of second eleven grotesqueness

Qadir pulled Botham low to Willis at mid on and at 224 for eight Pakistan were again uncertainly placed But now as Imran was growing in authority, Sikander stayed with him, and the ninth wicket pair, together at the close, added 31 invaluable

As long as the weather continued after the third and final Cornhill Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley seemed likely to fulfil the exciting possibilities that were predicted for it On the second day England's batting followed similar patterns to Pakistan's the previous day and at the close, in reply to the tourists' first innings of 275, England had made 256 for nine

The ball beat the bat fewer times than on the first day Yet, although there was a marvellous innings from Botham, a hard working and mature one from Gower, and useful contributions from Tavare, Gatting and Taylor, a Pakistan attack lacking Saifraz and Tahir Naqqash and on a wicket offering possibly less help than on the first day earned considerable credit for making such inroads into the English batting

They were helped by some injudicious strokes, a run out which brought the downfall of Randall and a glaring piece of misjudgment by Marks in the last over before tea With the notable exception of Qadir, however, who was treated with less respect than he has received all summer, a modest attack worked economically and successfully Im-

ran provided the inspiration, his pace and hostility proving the day's most potent weapons

The last two Pakistan wickets were more profitable than England would have wished. Imran was not afraid to swing the bat and, helping to rough up Jackman's tidy figures along the way, shared a ninth-wicket stand of 50 with Sikander

Ehtesham ud-din, however, did not last long, disconcerted by a lifting delivery from Botham which struck him in the face, though possibly suffering greater pain from seeing the ball roll on to his stumps

Fowler made a crisp start to his Test career He took a two and a three off Ehtesham's first over and then square-drove Imran handsomely for four These strokes, forcibly played, must have helped his confidence but, when Fowler was chosen for this match, he could have no idea that the man who would put a swift end to his first Test innings would be the professional with Daisy Hill in the Bolton Association When you are playing Pakistan you don't expect to be done by someone so close to home

Ehtesham is not the most athletic looking cricketer nor the most devastating bowler and, as the day wore on, he was to discover that wickets come easier for Daisy Hill than they do for Pakistan He is built like Joyce's Buck Mulligan

"Plum and stately", but in his opening spell, bowling wide of the crease, he found a delivery good enough to find its way between Fowler's bat and pad and to hit the off-stump

Tavare pursued the role for which he now seems permanently cast He stared hard at the ground, went on his ruminative walks and played many a straight dead bat, but he did look technically sound and even roused himself at one stage to hit Ehtesham for two fours in an over

Gatting joined him at number three, surely not his best position, but he played well and seized on loose deliveries from Qadir to get his innings under way Gatting, however, finds that sizeable innings for England as elusive as ever This might have been his day but after he had made a good 25, a ball from Imran cut back off the seam and trapped him lbw

That was the start of a destructive little spell from Imran which saw him collect three wickets in nine deliveries Lamb paid the price for a dismal pull—his scores in the series read six, five, 33 zero, zero, and Tavare was unable to keep down a waist-high delivery that gave Haroon, fielding substitute for Mansoor, a one-handed catch at short leg

Haroon took the next catch, too, an alert athletic one in the deep, but by then England were in a healthier position Botham was the victim but he had completed a superb half

century and shared with Gower a stand of 69 for the fifth wicket. This was the most exciting phase of a day never lacking in incident with Botham showing impeccable judgment and also a relish for attack. Qadir in particular has rarely been treated with such disrespect

England lost two wickets just before tea Randall, possibly encouraged by the sight of Gower moving towards him, went for a dangerous run but was sent back and Sikander completed a good piece of work by breaking the wicket with Randall far from home Then in the last over before the interval Marks, after showing some positive ways of dealing with Qadir, completely misread a googly, left the ball alone and was bowled

Gower had been struggling to find his best form but he became the dominant figure of the last session as his authority and confidence grew He has played with more fluency for England but rarely has he shown greater concentration Taylor was briskly acquisitive in an eight-wicket stand of 39 and then Gower displayed responsibility and judgment in protecting Jackman in another profitable stand for the ninth wicket

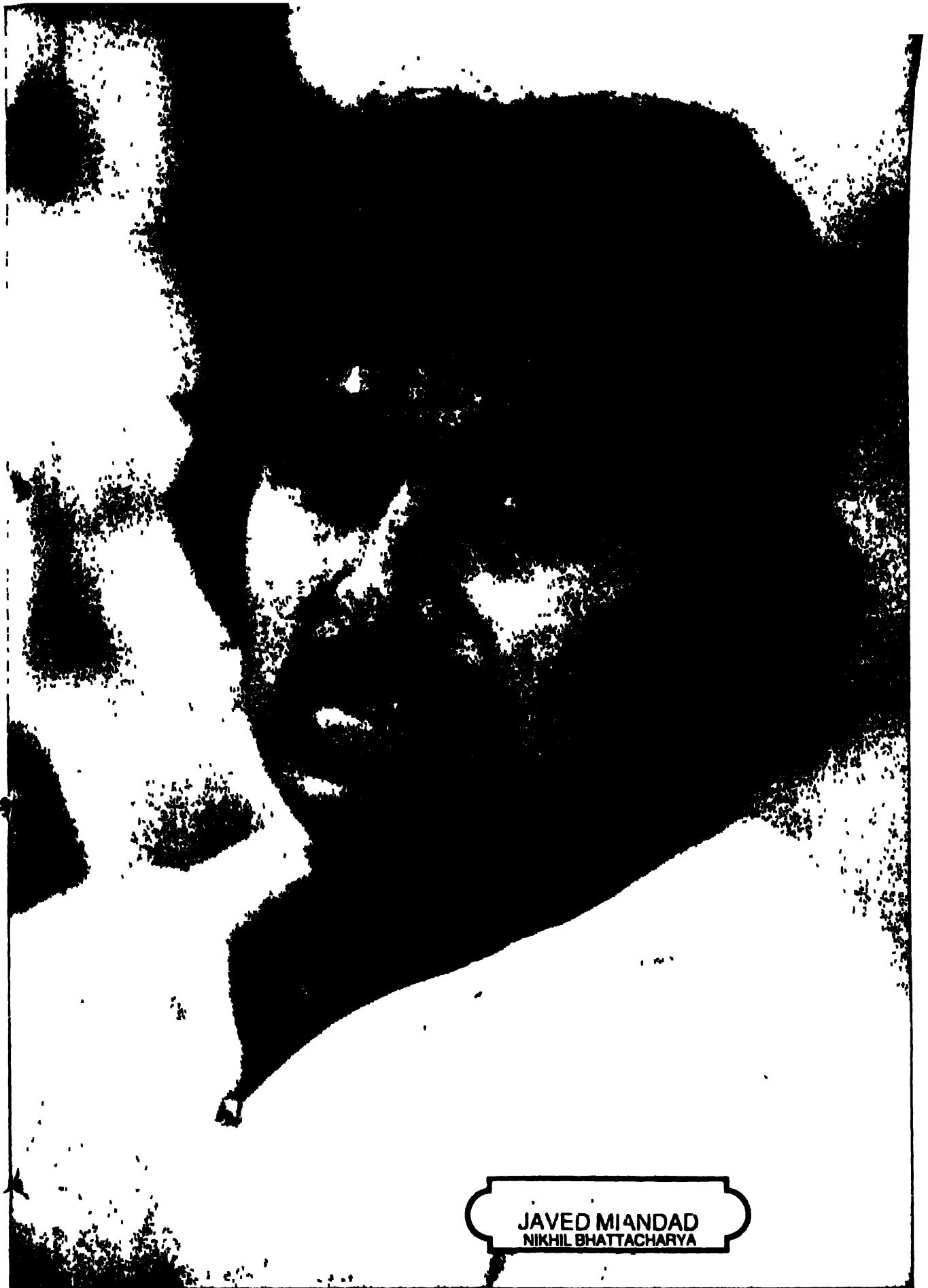
It seemed that Gower would be reappearing this morning but just before the end his long innings ended with a tired stroke off Sikander that gave Haroon his third catch Willis and Jackman were, thus, left with four overs to survive They did so and the day ended with England only 19 runs ahead and a fascinating Test nicely balanced

ENGLAND looked like winning the Cornhill Test against Pakistan at Headingley on the fourth day But that result was not so certain that you would want to put your life's savings on it

With all second innings wickets standing, England needed 204 runs to give them the Test and the series but there had been enough twists till then to tempt predictions with caution The memories of last season's extraordinary events were still vivid, too

In England's favour was the weekend state of the opposition's bowling On the night of the third day—after hitting his lip about the quality of the umpiring—Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, said that he had not completely given up hope of Ehtesham ud-din being able to bowl on the fourth morning But on the third day it seemed not a question of when the Daisy Hill professional would bowl again but how long it would be before he would be walking properly

No glummer looking figure can ever have appeared at the crease in a Test match Suffering from a hamstring strain it seemed that he might never reach the wicket and when, soon afterwards, he had to return



JAVED MIANDAD
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

that painful distance to the pavilion the mounting of the steps was only marginally less agonising than a walk across hot coals. The next act had almost started before he reached the top step.

Without Iftishamuddin Imran would have to rely on himself, Sikander and Mudassar for the pace attack and with the hope that Qadir would find more inspiration than in the first innings. On a wicket giving him some turn but no bounce that might have been difficult. There was plenty of assistance for the seam bowler till then and although Headingley is a law unto itself, that seemed likely to remain so.

The biggest danger seemed sure to come from Imran. He had poured enormous energy, effort and concentration into his bowling and batting till then and England, as Pakistan made their last effort to win the game, could have expected some blistering bowling from him. Is there a more compelling sight than Imran in the delivery stride?

Imran found difficulty at his Press conference in moderating his attack on the umpiring. He managed it and with a helpless sort of gesture suggested the impractical step of appointing an international panel to keep a check on Test umpires. Pakistan undoubtedly had the roughest of things at Edgbaston but found the luck with the marginal decisions running their way at Lord's. It was clear, however, that Imran did not believe in the theory that fortune tends to balance itself out over a series.

I would imagine that the dismissal which most upset him was Sikander's. The Press, unlike David Constant, have the benefit of television replays. Often those replays are inconclusive which strengthens the umpire's case. If the evidence of Sikander's dismissal was not, however, a total distortion, it has to be one of the most unfortunate decisions given in a long time. His bat did not appear to come within six inches of the ball. Pakistan possibly contemplated making an official protest but decided against such action later.

That was an important wicket for England. Sikander is not a great batsman but he is determined and was giving Imran devoted support in a ninth-wicket stand that realised 30 runs. Had that stand been extended by another 30 runs or more, the game would have been given a different complexion as it was Imran, who could not have taken any confidence from the sight of Iftishamuddin, who came him off soon afterwards, and England were left requiring 219 runs to win.

Imran was not too enamoured with his side's batting either, which showed that he had matters in perspective. "Some of the batsmen played as if it were a one-day game," he said. "Very disappointing." If Imran

so impressive on and off the field, were to tell you that you had been "Very disappointing" you would feel it necessary to run away and hide somewhere.

The start to Pakistan's second innings, after England's last wicket had been captured with indecent haste, was calamitous rather than disappointing. In Willis's first over both openers, Mohsin to an extraordinarily cavalier shot and Mudassar to a fine catch at third slip by Botham, fell to the first balls they faced.

Miandad displayed the full range of his talents but Pakistan might have been better served by the sort of application he showed in the first innings. The wicket was primarily for grafters. The runs were there but they needed to be worked for. David Gower's 74, in retrospect, looked like proving the most important contribution to the game.

There had been much backchatting and feuding in this match, and Iaved had invariably been involved. He seemed determined to show England, and Botham in particular, his glittering talent but at the expense



Imran Khan

of discretion and in the end his innings brought to mind the vain man in the Robert Graves' poem who would "Walk on stilts to be seen by the crowd." He departed to a remarkable catch by Taylor, driving expansively at Botham.

Botham went on to take another five wickets, good ones all, for the 20th time in his recent Test career. Imran showed what a mature cricketer he is, but as usual began to run out of partners. When the innings ended England needed to play out nine overs. This was reduced further by bad light but Fowler and Tavaré were there to lead the fight to another day.

INTERRUPTENT spells of rain alternating between serene periods of batting extended Pakistan's chance of saving the game in more senses than one. With England left stranded at 190 for six wickets the chances of Pakistan's wicket-shiers ridding the remainder of England's resistance seemed likely in the light of only Botham's hanger on as the sole recognised batsman. Moreover, the delay on England's

part to give the final stroke increased Pakistan's chances of wooing the weather and saving the series.

The morning of the fourth day was marked by the absolute batting of debutant Fowler as he blended superbness of timing with moderate aggression. He batted with certainty enough to ease Peter May's bouts of insomnia and the only blot was perhaps the one that got him out, as he swished at a delivery from Mudassar and was taken behind. Disappointment was omnipresent as he had fallen 14 short of a century on debut but with England at 168 and still eight wickets in hand the air in the 'home' dressing room was still relieved of tension.

Earlier, Tavaré, too had attempted to court a ball well outside the off stump and had paid the penalty by giving Majid Khan in the slips another catch of the series and Pakistan their first success.

By the end of another exciting day, showing signs of going the way of the Headingley Test of the previous year, Pakistan's rally of successes was to rise to six with Mudassar proving once again that there is more to his credentials than just that of opening the batting. At 172 Mudassar produced one to come back off the pitch which had an out-of-form Lamb groping and trapped lbw while 15 runs later he compelled Gower to launch into a drive as Barr behind frisked around in glee.

Such was Mudassar's influence on the game that suddenly the strong Yorkshire crowd had even stronger reservations about leaving. Most of them didn't and were forced to be witnesses to another English middle order collapse as Gatting and Derek Randall pursued each other into the pavilion, both the victims of the man who had taken the rear seat for some time in the day. Mike Gatting, who had played himself in and with a determination centred around grafting than going immediately for the shots, was out at 189, a personal 25 leg before to the Pakistani captain while Randall went identically back and in as England slumped to 189 for six wickets.

At the close of play Somerset's contribution to England, Ian Botham and Vic Marks had batted out the remaining time much to Bob Willis' comfort but not before Mudassar Nazar had dropped Ian Botham, of all people, at nought and Marks had been beaten all ends up but not bowled.

That summed up a day of great exciting possibilities and not many at the end of it all on the fourth evening would risk forecasting the next day's fare. With a bowler of freakish qualities like Mudassar causing entirely unexpected problems for each English batsman, no one seemed sure of chancing his arm.

PAKISTAN CRICKET RESULTS, FEBRUARY

PAKISTAN (First innings)		(Second innings)	
MOHSIN KHAN c Taylor b Botham	10	4 Taylor b	0
Mudassar Nazir b Botham		p Botham b Willis	0
MANSOOR AQTAR c Gatting b Willis	0	c Randall b Botham	30
JAVED MIANDAD c Fowler b Willis	54	c Taylor b Botham	52
ZAHSEER ABBAS c Taylor b Jackman	8	bw Botham	4
MAJID KHAN lbw Jackman	21	c Gower b Botham	10
IMRAN KHAN not out	67	c Randall b Botham	46
WASIM BARI c Jackman	23	c Taylor b Willis	7
ABDUL QADIR c Willis b Botham	5	b Jackman	17
SIKANDAR BAKHT c Tavers b Willis	7	c Gatting b Marks	7
EHTESHAMUDDIN b Botham	0	not out	0
EXTRAS	15	EXTRAS	17
TOTAL (all out)	275	(all out)	199

Fall of wickets 1/16 (Mohsin, Mudassar 6), 2/19 (Mansoor, Mudassar 9), 3/119 (Mudassar, Miandad 40), 4/128 (Zahseer, Miandad 41), 5/160 (Majid, Miandad 50), 6/168 (Miandad, Imran 4), 7/207 (Bari, Imran 17), 8/224 (Qadir, Imran 27), 9/274 (Bakht, Imran 66)
 Fall of wickets 1/0 (Mohsin, Mudassar 0), 2/3 (Mudassar, Mansoor 2), 3/61 (Miandad, Mansoor 24), 4/65 (Zahseer, Mansoor 24), 5/108 (Mansoor, Majid 7), 6/115 (Majid, Imran 3), 7/128 (Bari, Imran 7), 8/166 (Qadir, Imran 28), 9/199 (Sikandar, Imran 46)
 BOWLING: Willis 28-6-73-3, Botham 24-6-70-4, Jackman 37-7-74-3, Marks 5-0-33-0, Gatting 8-3-17-0
 BOWLING: Willis 19-2-55-3, Ian Botham 30-8-74-5, Jackman 28-11-41-1, Marks 2-1-3-1, Gatting 2-1-4-0

ENGLAND (First innings)		(Second innings)	
CHRIS TAVARE c sub (Haroop) b Imran	22	c Majid b Imran	33
GRAEME FOWLER b Ehtesham	9	c Bari b Mudassar	86
MIKE GATTING lbw Imran	25	bw Imran	25
ALLAN LAMB c Mohsin b Imran	0	bw Mudassar	4
DAVID GOWER c sub (Haroop) b Bakht	74	c Bari b Mudassar	7
IAN BOTHAM c sub (Haroop) b Bakht	57	c Majid b Mudassar	4
DEREK RANDALL run out (Bakht)	6	bw Imran	0
VIC MARKS b Qadir	7	not out	12
BOB TAYLOR c Miandad b Imran	18	not out	
ROBIN JACKMAN c Mohsin b Imran	11		
BOB WILLIS not out			
EXTRAS	24		42
TOTAL (all out)	236	(for seven wickets)	222

Fall of wickets 1/15 (Fowler, Tavers 3), 2/67 (Gatting, Tavers 21), 3/69 (Lamb, Tavers 22), 4/77 (Tavers, Gower 7), 5/146 (Botham, Gower 19), 6/158 (Randall, Gower 24), 7/170 (Marks, Gower 28), 8/209 (Taylor, Gower 46), 9/255 (Gower, Jackman 11)
 Fall of wickets 1/1/103 (Tavers, Fowler 51), 2/168 (Fowler, Gatting 16), 3/172 (Lamb, Gatting 18), 4/157 (Gower, Gatting 28), 5/189 (Gatting, Botham 0), 6/189 (Randall, Botham 6), 7/196 (Botham, Marks 2)
 BOWLING: Imran 25-2-7-48-4, Ehtesham 14-4-48-1, Bakht 24-5-47-2, Qadir 25-4-57-1, Mudassar 4-1-5-0
 BOWLING: Imran 30-2-5-55-3, Bakht 20-4-45-0, Qadir 8-3-16-0, Marks 2-1-3-1

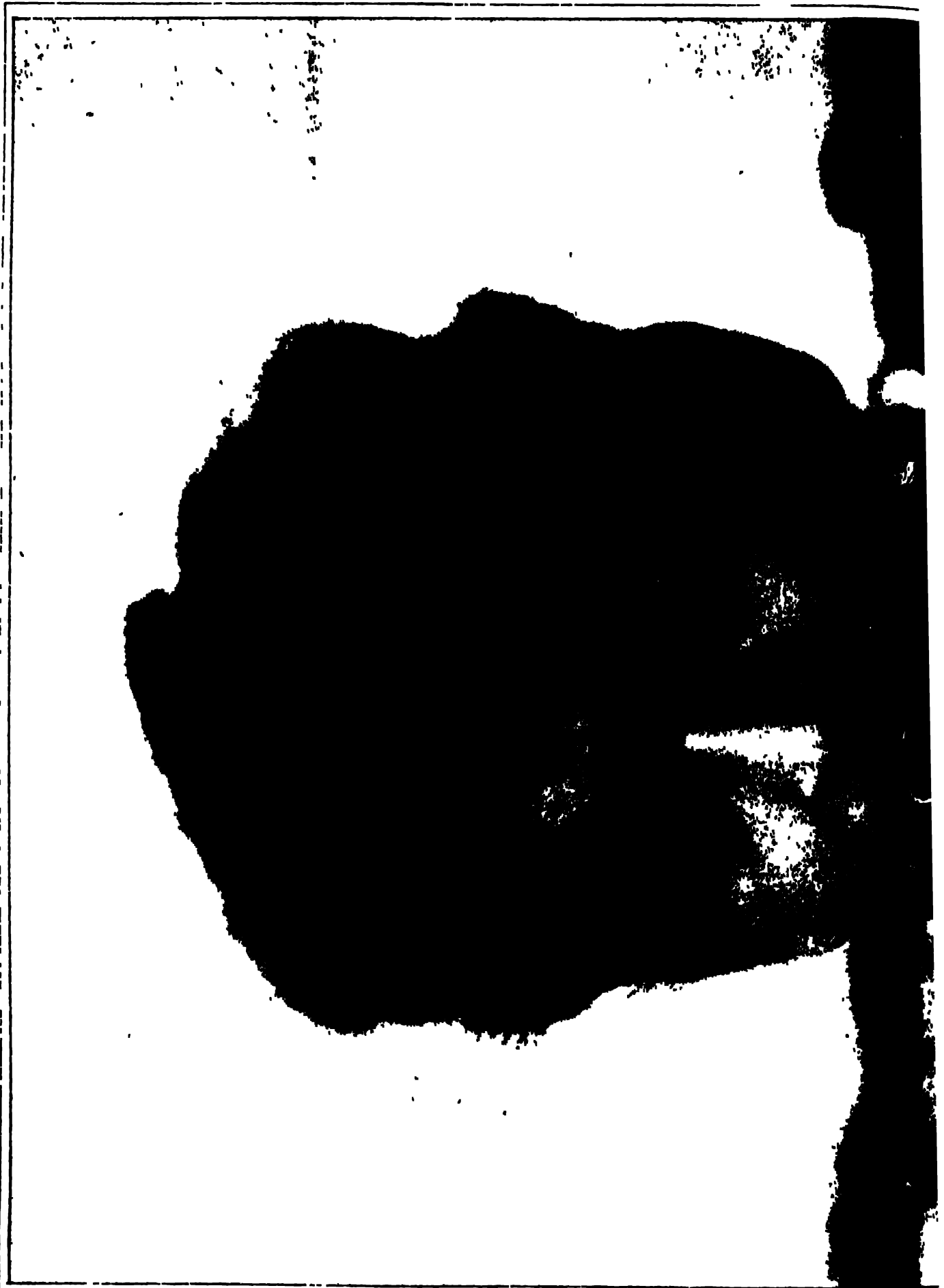
England won by three wickets.

Man of the Match: Chris Tavers
 Man of the Series: Imran Khan

When the ball was bowled, the batsman was in a crouched position, ready to swing. The bowler's arm was in full extension, and the ball was moving fast. The batsman swung his bat, but the ball was too fast and he missed it. The ball hit the stumps and the batsman was out.

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NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

I will resign

In an exclusive interview with DEREK O'BRIEN, P. K. Banerjee says he will take the ultimate step if India do not fare well at the Asian Games

SW Would it have been better to stay back in India and prepare for the Asiad rather than go for the Merdeka tournament?

PK Our initial plan was that the Indian team, after playing in the Korea Cup, should undertake the European tour. Competition is always good but one should keep in mind that there should always be a phased-out programme of preparation. This is why I was of the opinion that we should play a number of exhibition international matches which would help get the team into shape.

Unfortunately, the European tour was called off and this is why we went to Malaysia. When playing in a tournament one is always under tremendous pressure and this was not the best way to warm up for the Asiad. Nevertheless, Deitmar Pfeifer and others thought it best to go for the Merdeka and use it as a final trial before the Asian Games. This was endorsed by all of us in the Technical Committee. But all the same, I would personally have preferred the team not to go.

SW Is the confidence of the Indian team shattered after the debacle in Malaysia?

PK Their performance, undoubtedly, could have been better but as far as confidence is concerned, at least our defenders managed to salvage some of it. As far as holding or restricting a team is concerned, our showing was not too bad. But the problem arises when it comes to shooting. We have to score more goals against sides which are either on par or worse than us. Nowadays, only those who have the ability to both create and finish an attack play in the forward line and score the bulk of the goals. You have to be a specialist.

SW In the Indian team who would that specialist be?

PK That is what we lack. In the forward line you have to be exceptionally brilliant because one always has a rival defender breathing down one's neck. This is why it becomes increasingly difficult to manoeuvre, and frankly we do not have anyone in the Indian team who is so versatile. What is more, our attackers do not fall back in defence.

SW The most serious criticism being levelled against the Indian performance at this year's Merdeka is, not that we lost, but the fact that the Indians could not score even a single goal.

PK Very true. The history of Indian football will show that we somehow have never managed to score on foreign grounds. Our goal-scoring ability as a whole has always been better on home ground. Take the Nehru Gold Cup as an example. Compared to that tournament, we were much better prepared for the Merdeka. But still, our overall performance in the former was much

Nevertheless, Deitmar Pfeifer and others thought it best to go for the Merdeka and use it as a final trial before the Asian Games. This was endorsed by all of us in the Technical Committee. But all the same, I would personally have preferred the team not to go.

better. This, once again goes to prove that we play much better at home. It is for this reason I am confident that we will do well at the Asiad at Delhi.

SW How can you say this when we do not have any semblance of organisation in the forward line?

PK To be very frank, our forward line is not very balanced. When we play with two wingers (Manash Bhattacharya and Bidesh Bose) and a striker (Shabir Ali) or for that matter with two strikers (Xavier Pius and Shabir) and only one winger, there are tremendous gaps in the forward line. The forwards lack the speed, endurance, manoeuvrability and movement to penetrate the rival defence, and take control of the open spaces.

SW What are your plans to rectify these drawbacks between now and the Asiad?

PK I do have some plans which I wish to implement soon. But there is no use discussing these plans because I hold that results are what count and unfortunately we have not been able to produce favourable results. So for the next two and a half months I want to prepare them.

SW But then, what have you been doing for the last eighteen months?

PK Once again, I feel the question of playing at home will be completely different. In Delhi I am confident that we will enter the semi-finals.

SW How do you intend to go about this task?

PK We plan to bring in one or two players who have not been attending the camps.

SW Who are the players you intend to call?

PK I cannot disclose the names now but we are contemplating including two strikers or attackers. In due course the AIFF will inform every one of their decision.

SW But would not this be unfair to the other footballers in the camp, considering that they have been training for the last 18 months?

PK There is no question of fairness or unfairness. What is important is that the goods have to be delivered. It is very plainly a question of survival of the fittest. If I cannot prove my worth at the Asiad, well then it is just too bad for me. Take Biswajit Bhattacharya as an example. I tried him in the match against Brazil. He was a super liaison between the attackers and the mid-fielders but in the 62nd minute he developed a severe colic pain and had to be replaced. This is the point I am trying to prove, whoever is fit enough to play plays. We cannot afford to have passengers.

SW Knowing we do not play well on foreign grounds how did you make the statement that you expected the team to reach the semi-finals?

PK I had all good intentions and seriously thought that we would make the semis. India had managed to do it last year and I thought we could do it again. When we arrived there the Press was very eager to know the extent of our preparation. There are thousands of Indians in Malaysia and quite obviously they were expecting a good show to be put up by us. Even after arriving there I made the same statement. But it was only later that I realised that Ghana had been placed in our group. The UAE were to be in our group and Ghana in the other after Pakistan had withdrawn. I expected India to put it across both, Thailand and Singapore. Anyway, no excuses. This is a big tournament and one must be ready to play against all the teams—you can't grumble. Nevertheless, it was a little harsh to us having to play against both, Ghana and Brazil.

There is no question of fairness or unfairness. It is very plainly a question of survival

SW: How would you assess India's performance at the Merdeka?

PK: Against Thailand I feel we were the better side, we played an open game and should have won. Singapore played a good tactical game against us and our loss at their hands was the turning point of the tournament for us. We should not have lost to them. Our best performance in the tournament was against Brazil. For the first few minutes of the match my boys were abused and booed but then slowly the crowd began to acknowledge that we were playing good football and appreciated our efforts.

SW: India might have been able to hold Ghana to a draw if Bidish.

PK: This is not the time to blame anyone in particular. However, in the match against Ghana after holding them till 12 minutes from the end, Bidish Bose made a mispass and instead of the ball going to Prasanta Banerjee it came on a platter to George, a brilliant forward. He made no mistake—and put his side a goal ahead. But this is not the right time to criticise a player.

SW: Who was the person most to blame for the poor showing at Malaysia?

PK: It is I who am to blame. Yes, I am responsible. I have been training the team. The Technical Committee is there but as the head of the committee I accept that it was my fault. My only request to my patrons, the spectators, and all football lovers is to bear with me. In my career as a player and as a coach I've never gone through such a lean period. And I think something is coming—something is going to happen. If India does well I'll certainly retain my position, but otherwise I will find my way out, if I'm a 'no gooder'.

SW: In your opinion, who are the players who played well for India at the Merdeka?

PK: The deep defenders played particularly well, as did the mid-fielders. But our attackers did not come off—they were a complete failure. However, I do not wish to pin point any single player, as this might ruin their morale before the Delhi Asiad. Bhaskar Ganguly, our captain was not his usual self. Malaysia has never been a happy hunting ground for Bhaskar. Even last year he could not play up to our satisfaction and like up to the high standards he has set for himself.

SW: Talking of Bhaskar, do you have any comment to make about his planned expulsion by a north India lobby, which appeared in a section of the Press?

PK: I don't consider all this

We are all Indians and in my eyes Haryinder Singh or Xavier Pius, or Bhramananda from Goa or Kumar from Karnataka, are all equal. I do not believe in provincialism, regionalism, and parochialism. As far as I am concerned the best players will play and it does not matter whether they come from any region or speak any language. If a player has leadership qualities and is worth his place in the team, well then, he should be the captain. It is very sad that people in India are making sport into a game of petty regional politics.

SW: How has Deitmar Pfeifer been helping you in preparing the Indian team for the Asiad?

PK: He is trying in his own way. He helps in developing the fitness level and also other things. Pfeifer also gives the defenders many valuable tips and helps implement defensive organisation based on the lines of modern football. I should say, he is trying his best. In fact, everybody is trying and once again I would ask all football lovers to cooperate with us.

SW: Training for the Asiad will resume on September 20. What are the methods of training you and the other coaches will be implementing

They (Indian players) are just not versatile enough. They just do not like thinking

for the next two months?

PK: Each one has been allotted a different job. Arun Ghosh and Pfeifer have been put in charge of the defence. Besides, they are training the defenders to help in attack. Hakim has been instructed to take care of the mid-field and I will be handling the organisation of the forward line and what is most important is that I will, so to say, have to connect the mid-field with the forward line. I'll be teaching the boys certain planned moves. Unfortunately, our boys cannot analyse and work out things for themselves on the fields. So the attacking moves which are practised, one hopes, will come to them sub-consciously. When they are in a particular situation, the move will be a rehearsed one and they will not have to think.

SW: Is there any use of teaching the players such moves when they lack the basic skill and ability?

PK: Well, that is true. But the moves that have been prepared take into consideration the inability and ability of the Indian team. Nevertheless, we have, to a certain extent, adapted ourselves. Openings have to be created in a methodical way, as individually our players can do nothing. They are not versatile enough to dribble, dodge and set up goals for themselves. They just do not like thinking.

We plan to bring in one or two more players who have not been attending the camps

SW: What is the primary reason for this lack of thinking power?

PK: Basically, our brand of play does not augment much thinking. Whenever the players are there, they are there, playing for the club. At this level of football there is simply no planning.

SW: Do you mean our forward line is weak or is it the other departments?

PK: Let us get this straight, a wing can only move if supported by the mid field and defence. Most foreign teams use their wing backs to overlap to a large extent. At the same time, the winger should also fall back in defence. But we haven't got that type of a player in India.

SW: What should be done to improve Indian football?

PK: As I said before we have to begin at the grass roots and then improve the standard at the club level which is far below the international mark.

SW: What are your plans if India fare badly at the Asian Games?

PK: My plans? I will resign. I shouldn't say this without consulting the federation but with a humble apology I will submit my resignation. The country has given me a lot of responsibility and I am duty bound to live up to their expectation. Throughout my career, my credentials as a player and a coach have been undisputed. So if we do not fare well my conscience will not allow me to stay on. As a dispassionate person—not an official or P. K. Banerjee—I'll call it a day with a heavy heart. If the officials or Government ask me to carry on then it is a different question but as far as I am concerned, I won't carry on.

SW: Which team have the best chance of winning the football at the Delhi Asiad?

PK: What I said two years ago still stands. Three teams from the far East—South Korea, North Korea and China—and three from the Middle East—Iran, Iraq and Qatar have the best chance of being Asian champions.

SW: What are India's chances?

PK: We have to beat at least two of these teams to make the semi-final. We should—but now everyone will say, 'PK is talking too much'. Once again my intentions are good, we are trying very hard but it is a difficult task. I was inspired, and agree with what the President of the AIFT, Mr. Ziauddin said after our debacle in Malaysia, "we might lose all the battles but not the war." So let's wait and see what happens at Delhi. That is what counts, all is still not lost.



AMALRAJ
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

CALCUTTA SOCCER LEAGUE

Mohun Bagan slide further back

With the issue of the league championship already decided in favour of East Bengal, both Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting took things rather easy and gave away a point each to go further down on the league table. **SUBHASH SARCAR, SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL and DEREK O'BRIEN** report on the matches

MOHUN BAGAN Over the years it has more or less become the pattern for the top teams to drop a couple of points in the hard grind of the Calcutta League. This year, however, two of the 'Big Three' have dropped points liberally along the way leaving East Bengal clear winners. As has been mentioned before in these columns, after their defeat at the hands of East Bengal, Mohun Bagan lost all interest in the League.

The Railway sides have always been known for giving the better known teams a run for their money and BNR were no exception in their match against Mohun Bagan. They held the latter to a one-all draw, thereby causing the glamour team to

drop their seventh point of the league. As a result the League is now decided even though the green and maroons still have a handful of matches to play. It is suggested that in the future something should be done to keep the interest alive till the very end. This might be easier said than done. But what should be implemented is that the clash between the 'giants' should be played towards the end of the season. This will ensure to a certain extent that interest remains right to the end of the League.

In their match against BNR Bagan undoubtedly did have the major share of exchanges in the first half. The goal they scored had an element

of controversy shrouding it. Krishnendu Roy failed to get to a centre from Krishanu Dey. The ball instead travelled to Amitava Mukherjee, who many felt was offside. In fact, the linesman had even put up his flag to signal offside. The referee preferred to overlook it and Mohun Bagan were one up. The story would have been different if Ulaganathan had not missed an easy opportunity when he failed to convert a very good pass from Krishanu Dey.

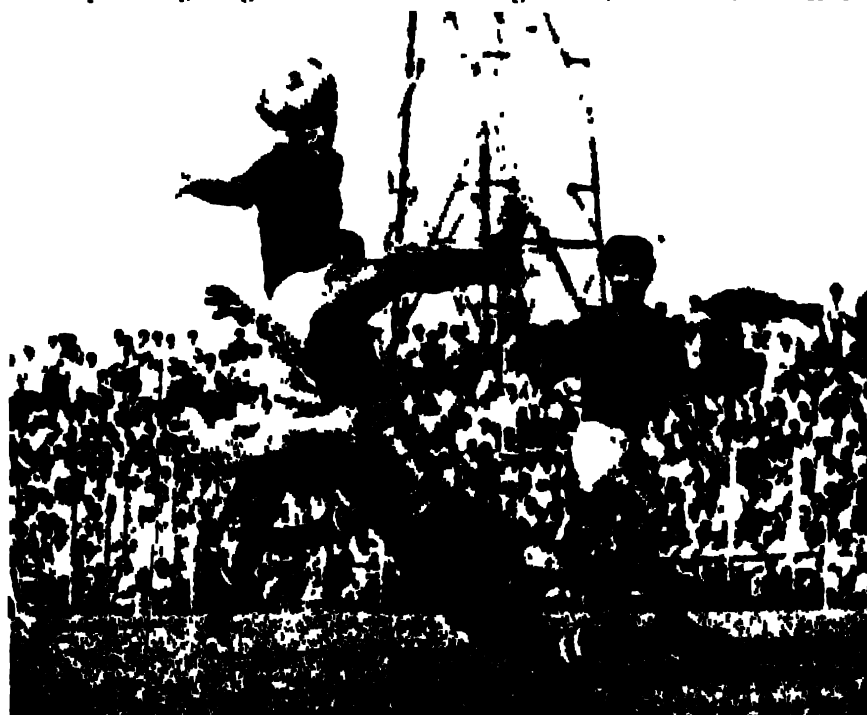
BNR got their equaliser in the second half when Pradip Pusti scored following a beautiful move which began deep inside their own half. There were no real signs of the glamour team pulling back—bringing to an end yet another disappointing display by a team which till only a few months ago had been on the topmost rungs of Indian soccer.

MOHAMMEDAN S.C. Regarding the home outfit's performance there's nothing to write about except that they were able to scramble home against a much junior Salkia Friends side. The appalling display left the fans exasperated because the goal came in the dying minutes of the game through the medio Uttam Mazumdar.

For 70 long minutes Mohammedan S.C. played purposeless football and it was a pity that the fighting Salkia boys failed to drive home the advantage because of a poor finish. The home team could have provided better football and Majid been in the ranks. He along with Jamshid, went to Aligarh for his examinations and absence is greatly felt especially in view of the fact they were to face Wari in the next match. Against Salkia, the forwards were just helpless without the Iranian.

One omission that Mohammedan Sporting made was by not playing Shankar Adhikari who performed well in the previous tie against Kidderpore and also scored a goal. Surprisingly, Shankar who performed consistently in the Federation Cup and in the first three league matches, has not been given much of a chance this season. The reason is best known to the coach and club officials. Instead, Mani was asked to man the attack but he proved futile with the result that Debasis Ray and Somenath Banerjee had to put in that extra bit. Since Rabin Das was injured, Mukhtar Ahmed played as a stopper but he was a total failure. Mukhtar's lapses were proved advantageous to the Salkia frontliners but Moidul Islam and Anudeb Das exerted desperately to ward off critical situations.

Debasis Mishra was indisposed and Uttam Mazumdar and Eishad Hussain had to work hard as their forwards could do precious little. And it was Uttam who saved the day when he availed of a rebound off a defender after Anudeb Das had cen



Subrata Bhattacharya of Mohun Bagan trying to put the ball past the BNR custodian

tred. But the goalkeeper Debasu Banerjee can be partly blamed for conceding the goal, too. Uttam's shot was a feeble one and how the custodian failed to anticipate it left the visitors confused and some disgusted.

BUT the story in the next match against Wari was totally different. Even without their star player, Majid, Mohammedan SC gave full satisfaction to the supporters when they beat Wari hands down 4-0. On a slushy ground Mohammedan SC played well but it leaves us thinking as to how inconsistent they can really be. This has been the very picture this season. One reasoning for their performance on this day was that they were out of pressure regarding the league title, and this could have made a lot of difference. They displayed better coordination and speed, the like of which was very seldom noticed.

Except for one occasion when Pratap Ghosh managed to fist over a Subir Sinha goal-bound header, he was at ease for the entire match. As for the Wari defenders it was pathetic to see them reeling under pressure. The home side could have scored many more goals but they did not as Somenath Banerjee was flexing his muscles for a hat-trick. His colleagues went all out to give him and the club the much-needed dosage but it was in vain. The third goal by a solo effort. It was in the 23rd minute after lemon time when Debasu sped down with the ball and came near scoring but a Wari defender prevented him. But in the next moment Debasu latched on to a faulty back-pass by Wari's Ashim

JAVANTA CITY



Mohammedan Sporting's Somenath Banerjee (on the ground) scoring against Wari

Das and drove home. However, Somenath had the rare consolation when he netted the fourth goal six minutes after Debasu's, when Latifuddin despatched a precise centre. Although Debasu Ray exerted tremendously, it was Shankar Adhikari who played the major role. In fact, he did the spade work for Somenath to score his second goal, while the other chances were wasted by the other forwards. Latif, too, worked out three beautiful through passes out of which Somenath was able to score his third goal.

When Wari took the field they played to the 4-3-3 formation just to

restrict the number of goals. Probably they would have given a fight but for the goal they conceded barely a couple of minutes after the start. Not that they could have held Mohammedan SC like they had done against Mohun Bagan, the early goal was enough to break their morale to a certain extent. But still they tried hard and Rupak Guha came out best from Wari's side as he was able to trouble Musheer Ahmed to a considerable extent.

THE three big clubs normally have two engagements a week but Mohammedan SC had three. In the process, they lost their tenth point when they played their postponed match with Eastern Railway. Indeed, with a little more effort, the railway men could have triumphed.

On a wet ground, Debasu Ray sparkled for the first fifteen minutes but during this period he failed to get a proper opening. Thereafter he fell behind the scene and Shankar Adhikari shouldered the responsibility of spearheading the attack but to no avail. The midfield was well manned by an injured Debashis Mishra but the defence was a bit shaky although Moidul Islam covered well.

Play was mostly centred in mid-field and one of Railway's lapses saw Shankar Adhikari speed down the line to send a calculated pass to the unmarked Somenath Banerjee. It was the only chance the home side got but Somenath was quite hesitant in front of the confident goalkeeper Saraj Guha. Suddenly a defender dashed out but Somenath managed to pass the ball to substitute Latif, who took a prompt shot at goal. To the dismay of the spectators, however, it rebounded off the post.

EAST BENGAL It was in the fitness of things that the captain of the victorious home team, Amali Raj,



A keen tussle for control of the ball during the Mohammedan Sporting-Saltia match

Bangladesh

“IN 1971 it happened under the leadership of Mujibur Rahman. Now after 11 years it has taken place once again—the rebirth of Bangladesh—this time under the leadership of Nishith Ghosh.” That was the angry comment of a die-hard Mohun Bagan supporter when the calm of their club ground was disturbed by crackers thrown from outside by East Bengal supporters who were jubilating over their side's long-awaited victory in this year's league tournament.

Can you guess why the reference to Bangladesh? If you are one of those overzealous club fanatics who were imaginative enough to bring a fresh hilsa to the ground the day East Bengal celebrated their league victory and present it to one of the players, Kartick Sett, you should not have to strain your intelligence very hard to figure out the underlying meaning or this bitter comment from

one of your arch enemies.

But the fact is there did take place a number of incidents that were really exasperating for some people who, after a long weekday of hard work, took time off from the maddening city life with their beloved ones amid the peace of the greens of maidan. Groups of frenzied supporters rushed to the couples sitting around the Fort William and also inside the Eden Gardens and pestered them for treats to celebrate the victory of their favourites. Some couples ultimately had to yield to their demands and buy the cheering supporters fuchka and such other things.

But the most striking remark of the day was yet to hit the ears of this scribe. Suddenly one young man was seen running down the middle of the Red Road waving the club banner wildly and shouting at the top of his voice “Friends, today

we are not in Calcutta
We are in Spain”

Red and yellow

Mannada had bought a red and yellow cap. That was the discovery of some East Bengal officials on the day Mohun Bagan further disgraced themselves by conceding a point to Rajasthan. It was a cool Calcutta afternoon, an overcast sky laden with dark nimbus clouds and a mild monsoon wind blowing across the vast expanse of the maidan.

The lawn of the East Bengal Club was alive with delightful discussions, the topic being the same at every table—their long-awaited victory in the league tournament and the sad fate that had befallen their chief rivals in the running. Of course, the latter subject had an edge the former, so far as interest was concerned. The significance of victory is in nothing but the humiliation of the enemies and there

was a Rajasthan on the ground only next to theirs, visible from the tent compound. All in all, it was a perfect atmosphere. And the East Bengal people were not to let such a delightful evening go to waste.

So, there were frequent bursts of laughter, touched off by jokes at times light but most of the time too cutting for the Mohun Bagan sympathisers to be quoted here in print.

Then, suddenly, came the news of Mannada. But this time it was not just a joke. Sallen Mannada, the leading light behind whatever effort Mohun Bagan had made to win the championship, was indeed reported to have bought a football fan's cap, the colours of which were red and yellow. But this he had brought from Spain as a memento of the World Cup which he was fortunate enough to witness along with some other soccer veterans of the city. Could he ever think then that his choice of a mere cap would be the subject of such cruel jokes in his rival camp?





opened the account for his side with a brilliant goal on the day the East Bengal Club supporters celebrated their sixteenth triumph in the Calcutta Senior Division Soccer League. Before the start of the match coach Amal Dutta, along with his boys, ran round the ground carrying the club banner to a deafening crescendo of applause and cheers from their well wishers at the stand who waved flags of various sizes, burst crackers, released pigeons dressed in club colours and danced with a huge dragon mask, generally used by the city's Chinese community during their religious festivals.

Inspired by their commanding position, the East Bengal boys

started playing a spirited game right from the beginning and created quite a few openings which could have brought them an early break through, had the ball not missed the mark by a few inches. The man in superb action in the half line was the skipper Amalraj who always took it upon himself to regulate the pace of the game and keep the frontliners well lade with good, swift passes. It was he who first came close to scoring when in the 4th minute one rasping shot from him hit the cross piece dangerously after beating the Behala Youth custodian completely. The Behala Youth boys never fell back on the defensive, despite continuous pressure from their superior

rivals. The first chance came their way when a Robin Mukherjee shot had the same fate as that of Amalraj, and came off the crosspiece.

In fact, it was one of those rare occasions when a junior team has been seen to put up a brave performance against their fancied rivals in this year's Calcutta League. The Behala Youth boys had all the qualities expected of a standard footballer except experience. One of their frontliners Palash Banerjee always kept the East Bengal defence busy by making swift and clever moves into their danger zone. But the fault that was spoiling his game most of the time was his tendency to move through solo efforts.

East Bengal got their second goal through Tapan Das. But this time also the main source of the move was Amalraj who forwarded a brilliant through for the scorer who was standing in an unmarked position and had no difficulty to send it home with a grounder.

Another strong point for Behala Youth was that the goals could never dampen their spirits and they remained just as aggressive as in the beginning. And their efforts did not go unrewarded. In the 29th minute of the second half Subrata Roy reduced the margin with a deceptive grounder. But like Amalraj in the East Bengal side, the chief man in action in the Behala Youth frontline was Palash Banerjee and it was he who paved the way for his colleague Roy to score the goal.

East Bengal scored yet another goal towards the end and the match ended on a happy note with everybody satisfied to watch an inspired game in a joyful and tension free atmosphere.



A dangerous move by Mohammedan Sporting's Latifuddin (left) being joined by the Saitia goalkeeper

The politics of Mohammedan S.C.

SUBHASH SARCAR

ALL speculation as to which team would wrest the Senior Division League title has now come to rest, with East Bengal, under the stewardship of Amalraj, emerging on top. It is perhaps ironic that Amalraj had actually offered his services to Mohammedan Sporting before the season began. He had been thus advised by his brother John, who led the victorious black and whites in the 1967 league. But the club authorities were not prepared to meet his demands and he was ignored. Mohammedan S.C. must surely have realised by now just how costly their error was. Instead, the club inducted the three controversial Iranians—Majid Baskari, Jamshid Nasiri and Md. Khahazi—for an exorbitant price despite the dissatisfaction of the honorary general secretary, Mr. Misbahul Haque, as well as a section of the top echelons of the club. It is gathered that when the Iranians discovered they were not wanted by the big clubs, they opted for Bangladesh but the club president, Mr. Erfan Randerian, was adamant on the question of their inclusion. It is a well-known fact that Mr. Randerian did a tremendous job last season to regain the prestigious league title after 14 years, but Calcutta's football fraternity feels that it was an expensive gamble. Maintaining a star team is always associated closely with spiralling expenditure and a time always comes when a club has to draw a line somewhere. The dilemma is all too common whether to spend within the club budget or to go beyond it.

The general secretary who has a very realistic approach, indeed foresaw the outcome of last year's extravaganza. He realised that the club would soon be in troubled waters. "What is the income of the club? We have generous donors, but how long can we exceed our budget? The flow of money is not always going to be uniform? I have frequently emphasised that we must cut our coat according to the cloth. I love the club and my involvement with it dates back to 1972."

"Before the transfers began this year, I had stressed that we should make our club a training centre along the Aryan lines. They are reputed to be excellent producers of soccer talent and I sincerely wanted our club to follow suit. I know ours is an old institution, but that is all the more reason why we must concen-

trate on this aspect. Look at the senior players nowadays. It is just because of their professionalism that talented juniors are generally lost in the ultimate battle. I tried emphasising that junior players be inducted into the club. I disagreed with the idea of recruiting the Iranians and that is where the real trouble began," said the general secretary. According to an official who wants to remain anonymous, no sooner has Mr. Haque settled down to the task of succeeding Dr. Rafique Ahmed, than there was a bombshell in store with regard to the club's cricket team. Cricket secretary Arshad Saigal ventured to acquire the best cricket team available by jacking up the highest price thus far in the transfer market. He did succeed in obtaining a "double" in 1981, but his venture cost the club nearly Rs 3 lakhs. The same source adds that when the cricket secretary was making the deals with the players, he did not even bother to take the consent of the general secretary. Interestingly enough, the functioning of the club centred around friends of Mr. Randerian's. Two of them, Arshad Saigal and Shahzada Parvez, offered their services but their attitude did not exactly endear them to most of the club officials. It is learnt that Mr. Haque had hinted about their removal to the president but ill-feelings soon became apparent. Was it because of this that Mr. Saigal had to

step down from the post of assistant general secretary and Mr. Parvez, an able administrator, resigned as vice-president. There was a strong rumbling of discontent and a breakaway was inevitable in such a situation. The changes came after the annual general meeting. Ghulam Mustafa took over as football secretary and Iqbal Ahmed as assistant secretary. It seems, however, that the 1981 accounts were not furnished and most of the club's hockey and cricket players were aggrieved because their dues were not fully met.

When deciding the makeup of the football team this season, the club took a long time to reach an accord. Mr. Mustafa had the final say in the composition of the side and though the balance between local and outstation players was somewhat maintained, the coming of the Iranians caused a lot of friction. Added to this was the presence of a 'semi-official' who unnecessarily hampered the smooth functioning of the club. Eyebrows have been raised about his utility but no one knows who has given him the necessary authority. According to the source, this person even threatened the players the day of the crucial match against East Bengal saying that they would have to win at all costs. Perhaps it was enough to unsettle the team. One wonders why the football secretary allows such things.



Erfan Randerian with some of the players who gave Mohammedan Sporting the Sikkim Governors Gold Cup and DCM trophy

Before the Iranians joined the fray, the attacking combination of Shankar Adhukary, Nirmal Chatterjee, Somenath Banerjee and Debashis Ray played extremely well in the first few matches though Majid showed some of his talent later in the league. But those who watched the outstation players closely—and this category includes club official, members and supporters—are not very impressed with their performances. Even substitutions were made in a most haphazard fashion, which affected the players' morale. Interestingly, the semi-official talked of earlier, behaved as though he was both coach and selector.

"I endorsed Nayeemuddin's name as coach because he is able to handle the junior boys well," said Mr Haque, adding, "I told him to give the newcomers proper chances." Indeed Nayeem went about his business in a serious attempt to get the team in trim, but their performances on the whole has been very inconsistent. One major reason could be the attitude of the semi-official which has brought the morale of the players to a low ebb. The football secretary should have intervened in time. "I fully agree that the handling of the team was not done properly," said Mr Haque.

This lack of consistency certainly spelt danger and Railway FC and Aryan drove the point home.

Mohammedan Sporting, had never conceded so many points in a league season, even when they had sides which were weaker than the present one. The incident on the day of the match against RFC—which was the worst this season—exposed the annoyance on the part of the fans and members. Both the president and the secretary denounced the kind of attitude displayed by Pem Dorji and Jamshed Nassiri.

Said Mr Haque "How can indiscipline be tolerated? We had no option but to suspend them. Even the police and the Indian Football Association applauded our action. Let me tell you that I played no part in relaxing the suspension. In fact, I was out of station when this decision was taken and it really surprised me." What was more humiliating for the club was that the IFA League Subcommittee decreed that Jamshed would have to sit out the whole season, barely after the working panel had decided to reduce the suspension. Things became worse with regard to the bossy attitude of certain people with no authority and in disgust Mr Misbahul Haque tendered his resignation. It is rumoured that two other vice presidents too have followed suit.

At the moment Mr Haque has a lot

of sympathy from senior club officials and members too. This is not to slight the president but his cool temperament and generosity have been exploited to a great deal. He must gear himself up now to save the old institution from unsavoury elements. The general feeling is that the club portfolios have been given to the wrong people, thereby leading to poor administration. It is gathered that Mr Haque has tremendous support among those who count. The president would do well to retain him. In the words of the former general secretary "My resignation does not mean that I stay aloof from the club. I still remain on the committee and I will always be at the service of the club. I know that my resignation will not be accepted by the president," said Mr Haque. Certainly the president knows how indispensable Mr Haque is.

The members also demand to be told what has happened to the nearly Rs four lakhs taken from them for the extension of members' stands. But Mr Haque clears all doubts. "The money for the extension work is in the care of the president. It was not possible to start work during the league, but the project will definitely begin after the IFA Shield."

Meanwhile, all is not well with Mohammedan Sporting. And unless someone does something constructive, the malaise will remain.

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The average fan maintains a life-long affection for the club that introduced him to the game. The team's fortunes become a barometer of his existence, each milestone forever etched in his mind, alongside some historic events at the ground—Robert Oxby

"Playing cricket is a physical slog and there is also no substitute for being fitter"—Kevin Emery, a promising young cricketer of England

"Violent conduct is a sending-off offence wherever it occurs"—Robert Oxby, a noted English soccer writer

"I have nothing to prove from now on. All three races were what I needed to tell myself that I can run consistently around 1min 45sec and faster when I want to. I have covered all eventualities and I am happy to be going to Athens"—Sebastian Coe

"I want to come back to Argentina and play for River Plate"—Ricardo Villa, Tottenham's Argentine midfield player

"Some people are making me the favourite to beat Overt of the gold medal in the European championships in Athens. The race tonight gives me the chance to do something in my own right"—Steve Cram before running in the 1500m at the international meeting in Zurich

"As an example of how to recover from all kinds of troubles Overt has to look no further than Coe. Many experienced eyes watching him in Zurich wondered about the seriousness of his injury. After two months away from racing and longer still from his own speciality, it seemed barely credible that he could produce the acceleration out of the last bend, hold back the speed when he was clear of his rivals, and then deliberately trot the last few steps—just to

keep his European rivals and the promoters guessing"—John Rodda

"Cowans is qualified for England and is now being muttered about as the selectors flail around for fast bowlers. He is beyond question faster than contenders like Jackman, Jarvis, Small and Emery. He is probably faster than Willis or Dilley. What is more doubtful is whether, after a handful of first class games, he has the experience or stamina to come off in Test cricket"—Matthew Engel about the promising Middlesex bowler N G Cowans

"Dilley bowled a good spell at the start yesterday and must still be the best of the fast bowling prospects. There was also a useful piece of seam bowling by Emery who took four for 46 and brought his season's tally of first class wickets to 67. At 22, he is short of experience and at the moment too prone to bowling no balls. He will probably always take plenty of wickets in English conditions"—Henry Blufeld

"Our marketing and publicity objectives are not the same now as they were when we began sponsoring cricket. We have been very pleased with the success of the Prudential competitions and I am sure the 1983 cup will be as good in its expanded format. Alec Davis, operations manager of Prudential, announcing the company's last involvement in international cricket

"It born in Britain, all well and fine. If not, hard luck. I note that Yorkshire and the Australians pursue a similar approach. Is it too much to hope that we might pull our heads out of the sand?"—a letter in the Wisden Cricket Monthly

"A quiet afternoon at the Lord's is the perfect occasion for a bit of reshaping



the lifestyle and redefining the goals of our earthly existence. That isn't why I go to Lord's, but it is inevitably what happens once I get there"—Jonathan Rice

"Although I am a great cricket fan, it has always struck me how much inactivity there appears to be to a non-committed spectator. Therefore, with my digital stopwatch I timed one hour's play. On the cuff I can think of no other sport where such a low proportion of action exists, unless it be Panda breeding at London Zoo—a cricket fan in the Wisden Cricket Monthly

Well, Qadir is young and now a matured and experienced cricketer, and his captain is a close colleague. Let us wait, fingers crossed. Cricket needs all the high class spin bowling it can get"—Qamar Ahmed on Abdul Qadir

"To toss the ball high, with spin, is a delicate balancing act which needs perfect timing, co-ordination, confidence and no little faith. The slightest interference with this truly magical process will ruin the result, and I believe that the crowding

fielders are doing just that"—Ted Dexter on the problems of effective slow bowling

"Willis is obviously only a temporary captain, appointed to keep the statisticians' books balanced. But don't bet on David Gower to take over the reins soon"—Wisden Cricket Monthly

"Wicket-keepers are too often an overlooked breed. They crouch all afternoon until their knee joints throb—and they don't usually get remembered when Man of the Match awards are being distributed"—David Foot

"Playing cricket has been a battle for the past two or three years. Now I realise that failure doesn't mean the end of the world. It used to"—Kevin Sharp, one of Yorkshire's brightest prospects

"The minority Parsis, originating out of Persia, were the first to take to the game and when the Hindus and Muslims saw the social acceptance this carried with it, they were prompted to take an interest. Still an urban game, once cricket spreads to rural areas of India on an organized basis, the sheer weight of numbers could lead to a formidable national team"—David Firth

"Cricket talk, especially when geared to comparisons against and among players of the past, is usually futile, but often fun"—David Firth

"Arlott's retirement removed the last support from the crumbling edifice. He was the voice of cricket. I will simply say that his vocal descriptions of cricket with quality of words complemented by that unique voice filled my mind with pictures so vivid that watching became superfluous"—E J Brack on radio coverage of cricket

Regional round-up

CALCUTTA

Disorganised meet

THE State Swimming Association has a strange way of functioning and what it has done for the sport is less said the better. To begin with it has done precious little in talent scouting thus far. The Calcutta Improvement Trust had allotted a standard pool which had a chlorination plant to the State unit to train boys and girls for the future. But the net result was that the pool was uncared for. Today the pool is a pitiable sight and no one dares to take a plunge into it.

Interestingly, instead of renovating the pool—the only State run one—the State Government has built an 'unrecognised' 25 metre pool for swimmers of tomorrow. Once again, it is only a matter of time when this miniature pool for minors will start to decay. However, coming back to the State body it's only status is holding the annual competition. It goes about making fervent requests to clubs to loan their heavy water tanks to run the show. In a way one can conclude that the State body is always at the mercy of the clubs.

Ludicrously, there was some ambiguity of the schedules. At least *Sportsworld* did not get an invitation. Did all the local dailies know about it? As it is the Swimming Association is in a bad shape, but can't it at least afford to print scoresheets for the State meet? They literally had to borrow the sheets from Puddapukur Youngmen's Association. Said one of the club officials "As it is we are allowing them to stage the State competition but it is all the more pathetic that they have to ask our club for scoresheets." And do you know who was present to see the day's proceedings? The present Swimming Federation of India secretary Dilip Mitra. Being the godfather of the National Swimming Association, Mr Mitra is at loggerheads with the State Association. And anyone can make his own conclusions as to what help the SFI will render to its poor affiliate.

There were a little more than fifty participants from Calcutta and the three neighbouring districts—24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly. In fact, Bengal swimming is centred on these four. The light refreshments for the entrants by the organisers was a mere apple. However, hunger was supplemented by snacks channelled through the respective clubs. Many State records fell but can it be said that the timings were exact? Present day swimming demands synchronised watches and sadly no one had it. For a swimmer exact timing is



Mina Thapa

very essential for further improvement. The State body seems quite disinterested about it or keeping track of swimmers. Believe it or not, there was a participant from Calcutta who was unable to have his heats. But he was represented by one of his friends in the heats and it is learnt that the original entrant swam in the finals.

Howrah was in the limelight with Mina Thapa establishing three meet records and being adjudged the best teenage swimmer. But Debojit Kar redeemed Calcutta's prestige by coming out best among the boys. Howrah's Biswajit Ghosh bettered Sudhir Das's 1500 m mark (20 11 4) by clocking 19 38 7, while teammate Kajal Mondal timed 11 55 5 for the first place in the 800 m. Howrah claimed both the boys and girls 400 relay, the latter breaking Puddapukur's 1977 record of 5 22 5 by finishing on 5 13 00. Mina Thapa had a share in the glory besides her three records. She became the 'butterfly'

queen when she broke both the 100 and 200 m record which stood in the name of Bula Choudhury. She erased both marks created in 1981 (100 m—1 17 3 and 200 m—2 55 9). She bettered her own 200 m individual medley when she figured 2 55 4. Howrah's Avijit Ghosh too rewrote his own 200 m butterfly timing clocking 2 22 9. Dilip Bagui of Hooghly did himself proud by putting into the background Madhu Halder's 1977 100 m breast mark by clocking 1 16 1 and went a step further with the 200 m breast record of 2 50 5 (Safal Mullick's was 2 51 1). Debojit Kar did a new timing of 2 31 9 in the 200 m individual medley.

Oars well that ends well

THE course of the lake at Rabin-dra Sarobar will be one of the busiest-ever this December when, in all probability, Asia's top oarsmen will be seen in action. Let's not mistake this for the Asian Games event at the Ramgarh Lake in Jaipur, which will be over by November 25.

Pioneers of rowing in India, the Lake Club has decided to take this venture to commemorate their Golden Jubilee celebrations. So local oarsmen and enthusiasts who will be missing the Asian event may look forward to some real action. In fact, the invitations to the top Asian rowing countries—and if it materialises—is going to be a showpiece in the list of celebrations. And there are so many diehards in the Lake Club who will not rest until they succeed.

December is still quite some time away but celebrations have already begun with much fanfare. The inauguration took place on August 28 with the West Bengal Governor Mr B D Pande formally launching two "Pairs" boats. In a sportive mood Mr Pande went a step further when he was at the helm of boat as a cox. The opening ceremony was followed by the anniversary regatta.

Recalling the good old days the club president Mr B Roychoudhury said Mr Bhaya Sen was the first Indian to win for the club the prestigious Maklin's Scull in the Amateur Rowing Association of the East in 1938. He made mention of Sam Mendore's feat in the singles scull also.

SUBHASH SARCAR

LMOB champions

COME the monsoons and the city's rugby enthusiasts tune their muscles for the Calcutta Cup which has been played on the grounds of the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club for the last ninety-two years.

This year the enthusiasm was even more because it is once again Calcutta's turn to host the All India and South East Asia tournament. The national event will begin in mid-September, a fortnight after the completion of the Calcutta Cup.

Six teams, the same as last year, took part in the local tournament. The sides were La Martinere Old Boys (who won the tournament for the fifth year in succession), their second team the Tigers, Calcutta Police, Armenians, Calcutta Cricker and Football Club and City Old Rugger. It was a foregone conclusion that the LMOB would take home the trophy as they had in their ranks the same players who had won the All India Tournament held in Bombay last year. They finished all their matches without being defeated and even though they did not play the brilliant rugby which one associates with them they were never really stretched.

Matches were played on Wednesdays and Saturdays and were always witnessed by a large crowd. LMOB had no problems putting it across the Tigers, Police and City Old Rugger. However, the Armenians only conceded a try (4 points) against the black and yellow jerseyed champions. The CC&FC who earlier played out a draw against the Armenians, won their other matches till they went down fighting to an overconfident LMOB. This was, undoubtedly, the best match of the tournament. The eventual winners scored a try following a beautiful movement. A few minutes later B Gomeze was unfairly tackled and instead of a penalty try being awarded only a kick was. A penalty try might have put the glamour team under a bit of pressure but would have in no way affected the final outcome of the match.

It was unfortunate that none of the teams on view could move their wing three quarters well. Instead most of them relied mostly on up and unders with the LMOB being exceptions on a few occasions. Scissor bouts of passing between Babul McLeod and Glen Martin were always a treat to watch. Vece Paes the ex-hockey Olympian was very safe as the CC&FC back and Pradeep Paul of the Tigers excelled in the match against Police when he ran a good 100 metres before touching down. Rajeev John was awarded the 'Best Player of the Tournament' but other players to impress were David Gaspar of the Armenians, Peter Aratoon of the Tigers, Darryl Martin of LMOB and—in my mind the best player of the tournament—the big American Marine John Fredo.

This sport which on one occasion was described as the gentlemen's game is slowly catching on in popularity in the city and one sincerely hopes that more people will take to it. There are teams from Bombay, Bangladesh and possibly one from

Sri Lanka who will be taking part in the All India tournament. This should provide the impetus to popularise the game, till now embarrassingly neglected in India.

Football for the over forties

It has been said before but let one say it again. People in this city are crazy about football. Whether you are below forty or on the wrong side of forty it does not really matter. The Calcutta Rangers Club, once one of the big names of the game in the city, organised an Invitation Football Tournament for players over forty. The rules of the game complied with the gentlemen for whom lumbago and heart attacks have become a way of life. Each team were only allowed five players in their ranks, the goalposts were smaller than the normal size, the dimensions of the field were less, and what is most important was that the ball could only be kicked below waist level.

Keeping all these rules in mind the 'old men' got onto the rain-soaked Rangers ground. The tournament was held on a league basis with the three teams—Dalhousie Institute, Grail Club and the hosts—all playing against each other. The home supporters were a trifle disappointed when their team lost both their matches. However, it was all part of the fun and no one really did mind.

Grail Club who had a few 'younger' over forties in their team beat the Dalhousie Institute in a well-contested final, by 7 goals to 2. O Tennant was awarded the 'Best Player of the Tournament' prize. The 62 year old H. D'Souza did a great job between the posts and P. C. Wong of the D. I. also turned on a vintage performance. The tournament was followed by a sumptuous lunch after which both player and spectator went home in high spirits. "It was, after all," as one player remarked, "a social gathering for the has-beens."

DEREK O'BRIEN

BOMBAY

Football politics

It is not uncommon on the Indian sports scene to find two bodies or associations both claiming to represent a sport in a particular region. The lust for power through sports for some officials manifests itself in the form of infighting and back-biting and has reached such alarming levels that it no longer raises eyebrows to know that parallel bodies are existing. Swimming, hockey, athletics, table tennis and football to name a few are "victims" of this plague—which is the bane of Indian sport.

Either it is a few disgruntled people who have broken away from the officially affiliated association and formed a parallel body or it is a section that alleges that the association is neglecting the sport and thus promotes an alternative platform.

The latest to join these exalted ranks is the Maharashtra Football Association (MFA), whose members "are disillusioned with the Western India Football Association (WIFA)." Like in all such controversies amidst the rhetoric and the confusion it is not easy to say who is right and who is wrong and who is telling the truth.

Of the 29 districts in Maharashtra, the MFA claims 24 are with them and as the majority is with them they should be the affiliated unit in Maharashtra of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). On the other hand, WIFA has referred to the MFA as a paper tiger.

To justify its formation, the MFA has drawn up a list of eleven charges against the WIFA. Absence of inter-district tournaments, no elections to the WIFA, nor any meeting of the district bodies, utter neglect of the game in other parts of Maharashtra except in Bombay, no visits by WIFA officials to study the problems of the district, no coaching camp or referees clinics. The list continues. A tendency of the WIFA to encourage discontent in certain areas like Pune and Nasik funds were never made available to WIFA in spite of collection, a constitution which was framed during the pre-Independence days governs the WIFA, violation of the government guidelines with respect to district representation on the WIFA and lastly that the team that represents Maharashtra in the Nationals is made up entirely of Bombay players, are the charges made by MFA.

As proof of its genuine interest in football vis-a-vis Maharashtra, the MFA has organised an inter-district tournament which will be held in Sholapur in the first half of September. Also the MFA in months to come promises to raise the football fever that is conspicuously at low key in Maharashtra as compared to Bengal.

E. V. Ganla, the Pune-based President of the Maharashtra Football Association, remarks that, "WIFA earns gate money from the Harwood League, Rovers Cup and Nadkarni Tournament. Where does all this money go to? None of it ever seems to be filtering back to the interiors of the State. It is shocking that after the tremendous following of football in Bombay, the city still does not have a proper stadium with basic facilities. We have had enough and now propose to charge everything."

Oddly enough the personalities, at least a few of them, on the all India body, Khalifa Ziauddin its President and Magan Singh, the chairman of the selection committee were at some time or the other connected with the WIFA.

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The MFA will have to give conclusive proof of the support it enjoys in the district before the AIFF can recognise it as its duty affiliated unit in Maharashtra. Till then, irrespective of whether the MFA or WFA is in charge, one hopes football will not take a back-seat to this tussle.

HARESH MUNWANI

DELHI

Records and rowdiness

SWIMMING in Delhi has always evoked responses of keen rivalry. Many years ago when swimming was restricted to a smaller sphere one remembers the rivalry among the elitist institutions like Modern School and St Columba's. There are now many more pools in the different residential colonies of the capital and the pattern of rivalry has changed.

Rivalry is always good provided it helps improve standards, which is why the Delhi Administration spent so much money in building the pools. But for all those meet records broken by the dozen at the Delhi State Championships, the standard has not improved commensurately. The improvement may be all right by local standards, but nothing to make an impact on the national scene.

The rivalry rose to most disgraceful depths in the water polo final between Swatantra Bharat Mills (SBM) and Jugle Singh Fairak Sangh (JSTS). An under-water exchange attracting the expected penalty from the referee, provoked such anger in Roy Kumar, one of the two ordered out of the pool, that he pulled a chair from under a shocked spectator and hurled it at his opponents in the water. With that pandemonium broke loose. When it was learnt that the police had been summoned many of the players bolted. When the chief guest, Mr Kedar Pande, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, arrived, the embarrassed organisers advised him to return without distributing the prizes.

Earlier, 15-year-old Balraj Rath of swimming coaching institute stole the show almost every afternoon of the five-day meet and emerged with five records in the boys division. But it was chubby little Surbhit Chaudhry who took one back to the more cultured times when another Chaudhry used to claim attention as a back stroke champion. Surbhit, who was adjudged all-round champion in the sub junior boys category, is the son of the eminent, soft-spoken eye surgeon, Sushil Chaudhry, who had to cut swimming out of his life to excel at his medical studies. That was a quarter century ago. Only time will tell what the future holds for Surbhit and brother, Saaviabh, who has also promisingly followed in the footsteps of papa Chaudhry.

Judo 'Test'

JUDO, a fledgling sport in the north, broke fresh ground when a team from Sri Lanka were engaged in a "Test" with "Northern India" in an event organised at Ghaziabad by the UP Judo Foundation. The Sri Lankan "judokas" found their "Northern India" opponents too good in the three bouts. It was all over in half an hour.

"Northern India" won two bouts and the third, between G. Tata and Sri Lankan police inspector Upali



Sumant Kaul throwing Haras Kashu of Sri Lanka

Sahabandhu, ended in a draw. The winners for Northern India were Ravi Kapoor, who struggled hard to beat Kithsir De Zoysa, and Sumant Kaul, who showed refined skill to beat Raja Fernando in four minutes.

Bedi gets ready

DELHI, the Ranji Trophy champions, seem quite aware that defending a national title is even more difficult than winning it. The cricket season is still some way off but Bishan Singh Bedi has already put Delhi's cricketers through a lot of hard preparatory work. Before they actually get down to practise with bat and ball they should be fighting fit.

Quite a few stalwarts of the Delhi team have been away playing in the English cricket leagues. In any case, they are in close touch with the game. It is the others, especially the

youngsters, who have benefited most, though the most enthusiastic of them all is a veteran—Chetan Chauhan (35). His enthusiasm and staying power is infectious. The initial list of 40 odd has been pruned down to 22. For many of them getting into the Delhi Ranji team is likely to remain a distant dream.

Under Mohinder Amarnath, Delhi defeated Karnataka in an epic final to win the national championship last year at a time when Delhi cricket was passing through a period of bitter strife and dissensions. One would have wished that all that is happily over. But even as Bedi is putting the probabilities through their paces there are uneasy signs of trouble again. Two of the three Amarnath brothers, Surinder and Rajinder, have not bothered to report for training, nor cared to give any reasons for doing so. Players like N. P. Singh and Sudhir Pathak also appear hurt at not finding themselves fitted into the scheme of things. They are reported to be looking out for fresh pastures.

Bedi himself is facing criticism for his divided loyalties, although he has made a belated announcement that he has resigned as chairman of the Punjab selection committee. All this, of course, is another aspect of the cricket scene which could be dealt with another time. If Delhi, in spite of all its troubles, went on to win the Ranji Trophy last year, it might well go on to repeat the feat again in the coming season such is the capital's cricket strength.

MADRAS

Upsets in cricket league

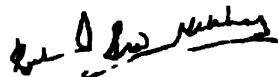
MAJOR interest in the last week has centred around the Senior Division Cricket League. Matches contested by top teams are generally watched by good crowds and this year the games involving Alwarpet Cricket Club, Jolly Rovers, Madras Cricket Club and State Bank have been followed with keen interest. When the season commenced on July 17, it did seem like it would be a two-horse race—Alwarpet C.C. and Jolly Rovers. The two teams had the cream of the State squad plus one Test cricketer on each side—Srikanth for Alwarpet C.C. and Bharat Reddy for Jolly Rovers. However at the time of writing—the two teams which have come off well are India Pistons, which has in their ranks T. E. Srinivasan and Madras Cricket Club, which has among its representatives, Venkataraghavan. Pistons have played five games and have 38 points while MCC 36 from the same number of games.

Jolly Rovers are not far behind—33 from five games but Alwarpet C.C.

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have only 23 points from four encounters. Holders State Bank are faring better—34 from five games. All teams play eleven matches. There will be a break for about three weeks now as the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association will concentrate on conducting the Buchi Babu invitation tournament, the prestige event for the TNCA and a popular competition in the city. This year five teams are participating in the tournament which commenced on August 28. Two are local sides, the TNCA XI and the TNCA President's XI which between them comprise the best talent available in the State.

Inter-collegiate meet

THE Bertram Memorial Tournament conducted by the Loyola College is the most important event for collegiate lads in the South. The meet, always well organised, lasts more than ten days and attracts a large number of outstation colleges from Tamil Nadu and Andhra. This being the golden jubilee year of the Bertram Tournament, the organisers decided to conduct it in a big way. They invited more colleges and added cricket to the six events they already conduct—tennis, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, ball badminton and chess. As usual interest centred on the Stanley Cup, the tennis singles event. This cup has been won in the past by such stars as Ramanaathan Krishnan, Anand Amritraj, Vijay Amritraj and Ramesh Krishnan. This year in one of the most lop sided finals ever, S Vasudevan demolished Vivek Kumar Reddy 6-0, 6-0, 6-1 in 80 minutes. The India junior star had won the title in 1978 but thereafter had not participated because of commitments abroad. In his absence Reddy won the title twice but was plainly in distress against Vasudevan who later on went on to complete a double by winning the doubles title too.

The table tennis singles title was in direct contrast to the tennis singles final. It was a thriller. There was little to choose between the two lads N R Bharath and H Shyam. The former won a well contested match.

The volleyball title was claimed by Aditanar College, Tiruchendur, while Loyola won the Basketball event.

ARTAB RAMCHAND

BANGALORE

Cash bonanza

TOP class Karnataka sportsmen and women in for a cash bonanza. For the first time the Karnataka Government, through its Directorate of Sports and Youth Services, introduced cash incentives for the State sportsmen and women who win any of the first three places at the Olympic World level (category A), Asian



Anand Shetty

(b), international (c) national (d) and State championships (e) level competitions. The cash awards vary from Rs. 10,000 for Olympic World Meet gold to Rs. 250 for State level winners.

A total of Rs. 1,32,000 has been set aside towards the cash awards for athletes who excelled at various meets held during the period of April 1981 to June 1982.

Anand Shetty, who won the silver medal for sprints at the Seoul Junior International Meet was richly awarded for his performance there and another Rs. 1,000 for representing the country. But 'Bangalore Mermaid' Anisha Prasad, a petite swimmer from Baldwin School, benefited the most. She got Rs. 7,000 for her performances throughout the year, which included two gold medals in the national swimming meets. Under this scheme, the players receive the payment directly and not through their associations. Thus, this eliminates any mischief and delay.

New schemes

THE new scheme coincides with the silver jubilee of Karnataka. As a 'jubilee present' the government has decided to present each of the athletes a pair of spikes so that they can run comfortably on the new Olympre track at New Delhi's Nehru Stadium.

The government has started the Karnataka State Sports Welfare Fund designed to safeguard the interests of sportsmen and women who have secured individual championships or have been members of the State team which won the championship at various representative meets. Only these sportsmen and women will be eligible for membership, whose annual fee is Rs. 10. The members will derive benefits such as financial assistance for their families, which will also be protected in case of member's death, illness or injuries. This is indeed a laudable venture on the part of the government. The men behind this are Minister of Youth Services, Mr. Gangadhar Gowda and Director of Sports Mr. A. J. Anandan.

Railway golf

RAILWAYS had their golf championships in Bangalore. The Railway Board, extended their tenure over the title with an aggregate of 551 points. The Board team consisted of former Railway champions S. N. Bhat, Anup Singh, M. S. Birdi and R. K. Sarkar. They finished the first day ahead of others with a score of 278 points and fared even better the next day when they aggregated to win the title. Diesel Loco Works, Varanasi and North Eastern Railway finished second and third, respectively.

However, the individual honour went to P. Narwaria of DLW, who won a brace of titles—best golfer and best scorer with 164 points (two rounds) and 79 points, respectively. A. K. Aich of Eastern Railway won the handicap section with 148 points pipping I. M. Sethi (149 points).

Benefit for Chandra

B. S. CHANDRASHEKHAR, one of the world's greatest leg spin and googly bowlers, has been granted a benefit match by the Karnataka State Cricket Association. The match will be held at Shimoga (240 km from Bangalore) on October 30 and 31 this year. Chandrashekhara has plans to invite top players of both past and present. The players are expected to accept his invitation. The benefit match was originally scheduled for April, this year. But since the Indian team was away at England, the match had to be postponed.



poned to October. He also plans to bring out a souvenir to mark the occasion. Chandra has played 58 Tests for India and has been the recipient of Arjuna Award and the Padma Shri. He is the first Karnataka player to get the benefit match.

SHANTHI MCHANPANI

What's not cricket

"If you can't be a cricketer for heaven's sake try to look like one", advised an exasperated captain to a young and pampered player who, after having fielded deplorably, walked out of the dressing room with dirty boots, unclean laces, torn pads and batting gloves, a bandaged bat and, above all, a wrist watch and a golden ring on his right hand finger.

Such an unedifying spectacle of a player walking on the ground in shabby clothes generally has a demoralising effect on his teammates. Just as a soldier pays meticulous attention to his clothes and equipment for a smart and efficient turn-out, similarly every cricketer, whether a club player or a Test star, must ensure an impeccable appearance.

I can recall a story which, though totally unrelated to cricket, clearly shows the importance of confidence. During the World War II, England was on the verge of crumbling. The situation was tense and Sir Winston Churchill was concerned and worried. Once he was about to reach the venue of a Press conference, which he felt could be his last one, when he ordered the chauffeur to return home. On way, the driver mustered his courage to ask, "Sir, you will be late to the Press conference to day". Churchill replied, "Yes, I am aware. But I had no option except to

turn home to pick up my cigar. Had these bastard journalists seen me without cigar, they would have concluded that I am a worried leader, which, though I am, I do not wish the journalists to know."

The sermon is that in cricket, like in war, confidence is most important and success cannot be achieved individually or collectively without it.

There is an unwritten law that every player must make sure before the start of a match that his hair and nails are properly trimmed. But this golden rule is often broken by even celebrated stars these days. This is most unfortunate. Long hair is likely to disturb one's concentration, particularly when strong cross breeze is blowing. Long finger nails may get damaged when fielding and long toenails may cause considerable discomfort.

It is an established fact that equipment plays an important role in ensuring success. Disregard in this respect has often proved disastrous. Quite often many batsmen allow straps of leg guards to be loose and buckled outside providing ample opportunities for mistaken appeal for a catch at the wicket and the umpires find it difficult to take a quick decision because of "the sound and deviation of the ball".

It Col. E. Gerald French in his book *It's not cricket* writes, "a few useful suggestions for the young aspirants and lay

"First clothing. Bearing in mind that the best is usually the cheapest in the long run. Choose good thick flannel shirts which will absorb perspiration and prove a safe guard against chills, flannel trousers of good, sound texture, preferably made to measure and neither too close fitting nor excessively baggy with straps and buckles at sides or back, but no hip pocket, which is both unnecessary and unsightly, a sweater of full length, open at the neck, for use only in cold and damp weather, thick white wollen socks, hand made if possible and buckskin boots of good quality with broad toe cup and stout soles well studded with nails."

In the all important selection of bats, the advice of an experienced relative or friend should

be sought. Make no mistake about it, unless your tools are the best obtainable, you will be unable to make satisfactory progress towards efficiency. It is essential that your bats should be by well known makers but little attention need be paid to the autographs of prominent players, the practice of procuring signatures for bats be one only one of the many deplorable modern forms of cricket commercialisation.

Make sure that your chosen bats are neither too heavy to be easily wielded as this would seriously impair stroke play and tend to affect your timing, nor so light as to restrict the power of your shots.

Here are some problems.

A fielder leaves the field or is absent from the field for longer than 15 mi-

nutes. Can he be allowed to bowl on his return?

A No, he cannot. He will have to spend as much time on the field before he is allowed to bowl. This law has been amended recently to prevent top bowlers getting indoors to steal much needed rest before returning to operate.

A batsman retires without giving satisfactory and convincing reason for doing so. Can he resume his innings?

A It all depends upon the rival captain. The law 2(9) reads, "If he leaves the field or retires for any reason he may only resume his innings with the consent of the opposing captain."

The umpires are of the view that light is insufficient. But the batsmen think otherwise. The game continues and suddenly one of the batsmen appeal against the light. What will be the umpires' decision?

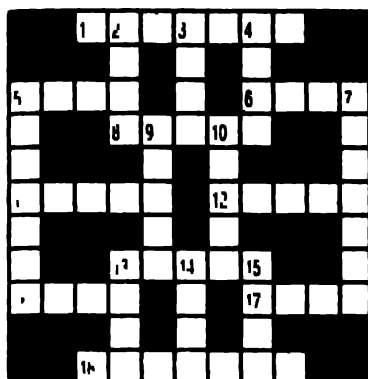
A The law as amended is clear. Law 3(8)(ii) reads, "In addition, during play, the umpires decide that the light is unfit, only the batting side shall have the option of continuing play. After agreeing to continue to play in unfit light conditions, the captain of the batting side (or a batsman at the wicket) may appeal against the light to the umpires, who shall uphold the appeal only if, in their opinion, the light has deteriorated since the agreement to continue was made."



Crossword

1 MUDAR

163



ACROSS

- 1 Female tennis player ends with a geographical feature (7)
- 5 The maximum number of players that can play tennis at a time (4)
- 6 Wimbledon's first winner (4)
- 9 The other Hadlee (5)
- 11 The most controversial of the cricketing zones? (5)
- 12 On Top Down— — — — — a book by Ray Robinson (5)
- 13 The editor of this magazine and this former hockey player for India have something somewhere to share (5)
- 16 The swing bowler's main weapon (4)
- 17 What a tournament is labelled when it is held for pros and amateurs alike (4)
- 18 This footballing Trevor who is cricket crazy (7)

DOWN

- 2 A type of a tennis court (4)
- 3 A Pakistani leg spinner, sometime captain and now manager affectionately called? (4)
- 3 What a slipsman and a wicket-keeper eagerly waits for (4)
- 5 An important aspect of sports today that comprises part of a Scottish sea monster (7)
- 7 The Test record-holder for the most consecutive hundreds by his first name (7)
- 9 Cricketing trophy fought for between two countries worth playing for? (5)
- 10 Racing champion, Niki (5)
- 13 This E'ahi, played for both, India and Pakistan in Tests (4)
- 14 A sportsman never hopes to find himself in this sort of a season (4)
- 15 Cricketer of great consistency for India has an egoistic ending (4)

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Nitin Sapre, Pune

Q What is the Test batting record of David Hookes? How many fifties and hundreds has he scored?

A In 8 Tests and 15 innings, Hookes made 433 runs at an average of 28.66 with the help of three fifties

Gyanaranjan Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar

Q Has Gavaskar taken any Test wicket? If he has, whose wicket was that?

A Yes that of Zaheer Abbas of Pakistan at Faisalabad in 1978-79

Rana Sen, Patna

Q What is the Test record of Peter Richardson?

A In 34 Tests and 56 innings, he was once not out scored 2,061 runs, with 126 as his highest score, 37.47 average five centuries and nine half centuries

Birendra Pal, Midnapur

Q What does 'P S' in C P S Chauhan stand for?

A Pratap Singh

S V Dutta, Madras

Q What is the Test batting record of Geoff Boycott?

A He has played 104 Tests, 185 innings, 22 times not out, 7,802 runs, 246 not out as his highest score, average 47.86 21 centuries 40 half centuries, 10 zeroes and 30 catches

A V Ramel, Vishakhapatnam

Q What is the highest score made by a Test batsman on record and against whom did he score these runs?

A The innings of 365 not out by Sir Garfield Sobers of West Indies who made it against Pakistan at Kingston in 1957-58

G V Giri, Dhanbad

Q What is the Test record of C Walcott?

A He has played 44 Tests, 74 innings, seven times not out, 3,798 runs, 220 as his highest score, 56.68 average, 15 centuries, 14 half centuries one zero, 53 catches and 11 stumpings

SOLUTION 162

D A N I
O N

R N H
H O G G G Y A T S

M. T. Sharanappa, Davangere; D. K. Davarsh, Dibrugarh.

Q What is the Test batting record of M A K Pataudi?

A He has played 46 Tests, 83 innings, three not out innings, 2,793 runs, 203 not out as his highest score, 34.91 average, six centuries, 16 half centuries, seven zeroes and has captained in 40 Tests

Thomas Manuel and Harhey Daniel, Trivandrum

Q Who is the youngest Indian to make his Test debut?

A Vijay Mehra who played his first Test against New Zealand at Bombay in 1955-56 at the age of 17 years and 265 days

Tushar and Harish, Coimbatore.

Q Which bowler has taken most wickets in an over?

A M J C Allom, K Cranston, F J Titmus and C M Old, all from England, have captured a maximum of four wickets in an over

K Radarabinda, Orissa.

Q How many times have Lance Gibbs and Clame Grimmet claimed 10 wickets or more in a Test match?

A Lance Gibbs twice and Clame Grimmet seven times

Ajay Kumar Agarwal, Calcutta.

Q How many Tests centuries have been made by B P Patel?

A Only one—115 not out versus West Indies at Port-of-Spain in 1975-76

Quiz

QUESTIONS

The following Olympic gold medallists achieved the distinction in the year noted against their names. Identify their events and the States they represented

- 1 Daniel Morelon (1968, 1972),
- 2 Pascual Perez (1948);
- 3 Nina Romashkova (1952),
- 4 Mary E. Peters (1972);
- 5 Lee Q Calhoun (1956, 1960);
- 6 Sawao Kato (1968, 1972),
- 7 Samuel Lee (1948, 1952),
- 8 Laszlo Papp (1948, 1952 and 1956),
- 9 Ralph H Boston (1960),
- 10 Jozef Schmidt (1964, 1968)

ANSWERS

- 1 Cycling 1,000m sprint; France
- 2 Boxing Flyweight; Argentina
- 3 Women's discus throw; USSR
- 4 Women's pentathlon; Great Britain
- 5 110 metres hurdles; USA
- 6 Gymnastics Combined exercises (individual); Japan
- 7 Diving Platform; USA
- 8 Boxing Middleweight (1948) and Light-middleweight (1952 and 1956); Hungary
- 9 Broad jump; USA
- 10 Triple jump; Poland

Excellent: 20-18, Good: 17-15, Fair: 14-13

A He has played 44 Tests, 61 innings, seven times not out 1 328 runs, 80 as his highest score 24 59 average five half centuries, two-zeroes, 11,587 balls bowled 432 maiden overs, yielded

Q What is the highest score made by Mike Procter and Basil D Oliveira ?

Q What is Dilip Doshi's date of birth ?
A His date of birth is 22 December, 1947

Über Schapiro

♠ 10763
 ♥ Q109852
 ♦ none
 ♣ Q73

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 954
 ♥ K7643
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ J10

♠ AKQJ82
 ♥ J
 ♦ QJ976
 ♣ 2

♠ none
 ♥ A
 ♦ AK852
 ♣ AK98654

East's 2 NT showed length in the unbid suits and, hearing that diamonds were well held on my right, I settled for a small slam. East upset my calculations by sacrificing in six spades but at least this gave me the chance to show reserve values by

This week's quiz. At love all you hold ♠ 7 6 4 3, ♥ Q 7 5, ♦ Q 8 3 2, ♣ A 4. Your partner deals and opens one spade, you respond two spades and partner tries with three clubs. What should you bid?

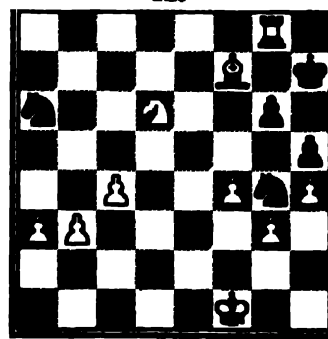
■ Peter Clarke

You may have got the impression from two games featured recently (Miles - Korchnoi, Wijk aan Zee, 1978 and Keres - Smyslov, Zurich, 1953) that the Queen's Indian Defence solves all Black's problems when he is allowed to play it. To show that that is not quite the case, and to restore the balance for the white pieces, here is a dramatic encounter from the Philips & Drew Kings Tournament in April. The two grandmasters involved were disappointed with their final scores of 7/13. Timman started badly and Portisch finished badly, and this game clearly reflects the tide of their fortunes. The Hungarian let the Dutchman be him in knots and make the opening pawn sacrifice look very dangerous indeed.

White: Jan Timman. Black: Lajos Portisch. Queen's Pawn, Queen's Indian Defence (London, 1982)

1 P-Q4, B-K3; 2 P-B4, P-K3
3 B-K2, P-B3; 4 P-B3, P-B3

8 B-Q2, 8-K2; 8-B-Q, 8-B
 7 P-Q2...
 The offer of a centre pawn gives the game a far
 sharper character than the normal 7 K2-B3
 7 . P-P; 8 R-Q4, P-B3
 8 P-P, R-P; 10 R-Q5, 8-B3
 According to Geller's new book *Queen's Indian*
Defence 10 K2-B3 is more reliable
 11 R-K1, 8-R2; 12 P-B4, R-K2
 13 R-B3
 The obvious 13 K2-Q5 is probably less effective in
 the long run. Now the threat is 14 K2-K4
 13 . B-B4
 Perhaps a more stubborn defensive plan would be
 13 K-R1 followed by K2-K1
 14 R-Q4, 8-B2, 15 P-B3, P-Q4
 16 B-Q2, 8-B1, 17 R-B3, K-R1
 Black would like to be mated or suffer disastrous
 losses after 17 P-K2, 18 B x BP
 18 R-B3, R-K2, 19 R-Q5 x QP.
 The destruction of Black's pawn barrier on the long
 diagonal decides the issue
 19 P-R2; 20 R x P, 8-B3
 21 B x R, 8-B2, 22 R x B, Q x R
 23 B-Q2, Q-B2, 24 B-B1, resigns
 Timman was awarded the Brilliance Prize of £250
 for this performance
 1-0333 Solution next week
 Black



White to play and mate in two moves
 Solution to No1198 (Theodor): Qh1c3-d4!g1-
 2p1b3-a4!b1-a2!f1-g2!f4-g3—mate in two.)
 1 R2-B6 (threat 2 R1-Q7) (a) 1 R2-B4, 2
 Q-QB3 (b) 1 QxR, 2 Q-Q4, (c) 1
 NxR, 2 B-B7, (d) 1 BxR, 2 Q-Q3, (e)
 1 QxNxh, 2 B-B5, (f) 1 KxR, 2
 Q-Q5

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22 SEPTEMBER 1982

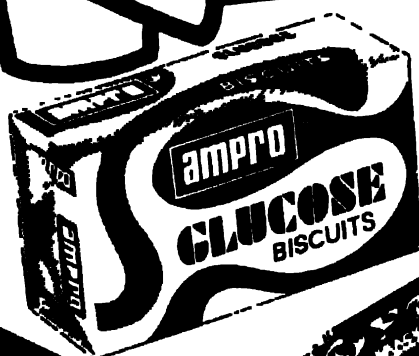
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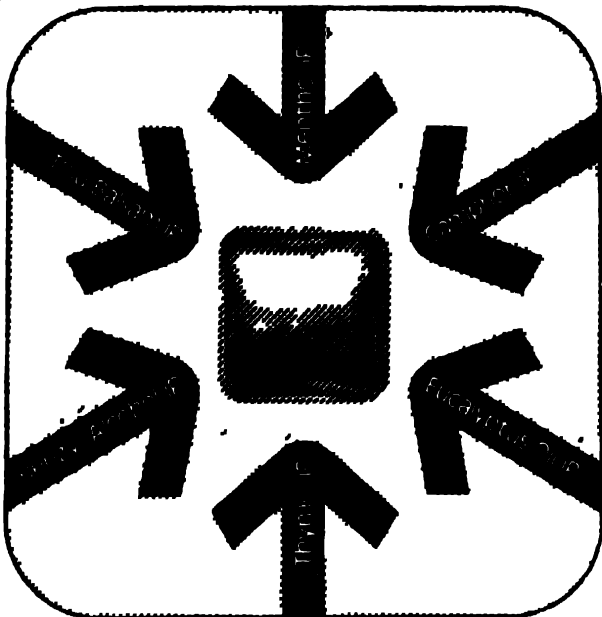
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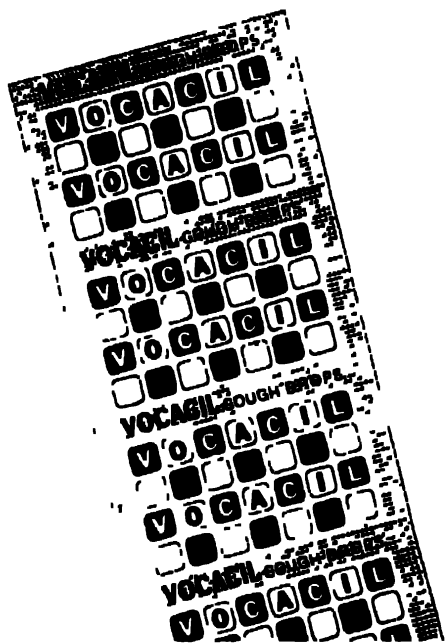
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Even then I cannot see the job going his way when he has already failed once at it before. Moreover, most of the captains that have led their countries have either been batsmen or bowlers and only a few cricketers have been all-rounders. How can one do the bowling, batting and the fielding and top it all with the captaincy? It is not only a tough task but nigh impossible.

SANJEEV MEHTA,
Calcutta

Best Indian football team

I FEEL that the best ever Indian football team should be something like this: Thangaraj, Sudhin Karmakar, Aroon Ghosh, Jarnail Singh, Sailen Man na Pradip Banerjee (captain), Mewalal, Sattai Chuni Goswami, Nayari and Venkatesh Reserves: Tarun Bose, Gosto Pal Dhanraj and Mohammed Habib.

ANIRUDHA CHAKRA
VARII
Bhala

Ridiculous

THE article on openers for India by Paritab Ramchand in the 11 August issue was quite ridiculous. He virtually pleaded the case for Srikanth who I agree is a fine batsman. But Mr. Ramchand seems to have forgotten that despite being an unorthodox batsman he was selected and he failed. In six innings he scored 119 runs—not an adequate performance to retain one's place.

About Roy and Parkar, Mr. Ramchand opined that they would be a 'bad investment' for the future. How dare he say so? He says that Srikanth is a new Srikanth now. My point is that if Srikanth can change his style and become a better player than why can Parkar and Roy not do the same?

Sorry, Mr. Ramchand, you have not indulged in good journalism. Your pleading the case on Srikanth's behalf would have been justified if he had scored the runs. Style is a secondary consideration. What the team requires is runs and if this had not been the case then

Chauhan would never have made it into the Indian side.

SOBHAN KUMAR
CHAUDHURY,
Gauhati

Malpractices

IN the recently concluded Indian Masters Badminton played at Hyderabad we had the opportunity to witness some malpractices in the conducting of the tournament.

1) The gates of tickets were so high that half of the amount was taken by the organisers for their personal benefit.

2) Of the Rs 10 lakhs spent for staging the Masters nearly four to five lakhs were taken away by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister who is the President of the A.P. Badminton Association.

3) The organisers had clearly stated that complimentary tickets had been strictly prohibited. Yet the Ministers and their families were provided with them.

4) The distribution of prizes was over even before the last match could conclude.

5) It is learnt that the Ministers had asked the Doordarshan cameramen to focus on them so that the public could not know that they had come to watch the tournament.

6) M. I. Jaisimha, the cricketer, was invited to give the commentary.

M. KRISHNA KUMAR
Secunderabad

Congratulations

PLEASE convey my heartfelt congratulations to Fast Bengal for winning the Senior Division League title after a lapse of four years.

ABHINAV KUMAR,
Muzaffarpur

Final say

I THINK that the normal reaction of every Indian batsman to the new lbw rule introduced on experimental lines this season will be "My foot!"

RAKESH SHARMA,
Delhi

ASIAD VENUES

TALKATORA GARDENS, which once used to be synonymous with Delhi's football, will be the venue for the swimming events during the Ninth Asian Games.

The swimming pool complex, whose construction has been entrusted to the New Delhi Municipal Committee, will be the first of its kind in India. It is located in 12.13 acres of land bordering the Talkatora Gardens and adjacent to the Willingdon Crescent overlooking the President's Estate. Originally the cost of the complex was estimated at Rs 9.25 crores when a roof had been envisaged for the main structure and the arena portion as well as the covered area, were to be air-conditioned.

However, the roof has been omitted for the Asian Games and the air-conditioning of the portion has also to be dispensed with. The expenditure of the complex, as envisaged now, is of the order of Rs 8.5 crores.

There was a lot of controversy whether to have a roof or not. There had been some doubts about

the design of the roof. The British expert Prof. M. S. Makowsky, who visited India to inspect the design, to have disapproved with the design. He was of the view that such mammoth projects of roofing the indoor-pool had been undertaken without adequate planning. Finally, it was agreed to go in for an 'open air' pool. One senior official of the Special Organising Committee is on the record "that the structural defects in the design had not been corrected there could have been a disaster".

Due to the omission of the roof certain additional works had to be proposed to give the top portion of the structure a look of completion. Due to the additional heat load caused by having the swimming pool and the diving pool open, the heating system originally proposed, had to be enlarged considerably.

There will be three pools: the Warming-up Pool of 50m x 11m x 2m, the Main Pool 50m x 26m x 2m and the Diving Pool (25m x 25m x 5m).

The main structure is

elliptical in plan. The major axis of the ellipse is 120 metres and the minor axis is 102 metres. There are separate entrances conveniently located. The eastern side ramp can be used by disabled persons coming in wheel chairs. The landscaping work with proper turfing and planning of selected shrubbery has been planned by an expert landscape artist. The complex can be divided into five main parts—the Main Arena, Eastern and Western Stands, Competitors' Annexe, Restaurant Block and Landscaping.

The arena consists of the competitors' pool and diving pool. The warm-up pool, also called practice pool, is situated below the western stands. There will be an electronic timer at the northern end of the arena during the games.

The diving column, situated on the southern side of the diving pool, has spring boards and diving platforms at different levels, the highest being at 10.00 metres above the water level. In order to facilitate quick conduct of the diving

events and also to save effort on the part of the diver, a small lift will also be provided connecting each of the levels at which spring boards and diving platforms are located. The water in all the three pools would be re-circulated through pressure filters in order to keep the water clean. For this purpose, pressure filters along with the chemical dosing equipment are located below the eastern stands. The temperature of the water in competitors' pool and warm-up pool would be at 25 degree C and the temperature of the water in the diving pool would be at 27 degree C. To maintain these temperatures, a heating system has been provided which includes boilers and heat exchanges.

The spectators' gallery has a capacity of 7,000.

In the competitors' annexe there are change rooms, showers, towel rooms, toilets etc. The location of the annexe is so adjusted that the participants as they arrive, can quickly change, take a shower and proceed to the warm-up pool quite close.

DUNLOP
TYRES
lead the way



The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

WATCH IT!

Haiti As part of the Family Planning For All by 2000 A.D. campaign, the Haitian Government organised a football match between two teams called The Pill and The Cap. The match was played in Ravine Pintade, one of the most densely populated areas of Port au Prince. Goals were shot, but did the message shoot home?

SPORTING SOLUTION?

Taiwan. Soccer star Pele had an original solution to offer to end wars between nations everywhere. According to him, disputes between nations should be settled on the soccer pitches during the World Cup every year. Whoever won, should get the area under dispute as a prize! And then naturally, players like Pele would be in great demand with the Gulf States perennial winners.

BOWLED OVER

London In his heyday, Freddie Trueman was a formidable bowler and was consequently known as 'Fiery Fred'. In a certain match, a young opening batsman was clean bowled by Trueman before he had even scored. "A very good ball, Mr Trueman," said the batsman sportingly, as he made his way back to the pavilion. "Aye lad," said Fred sorrowfully, "and it was wasted on thee!"

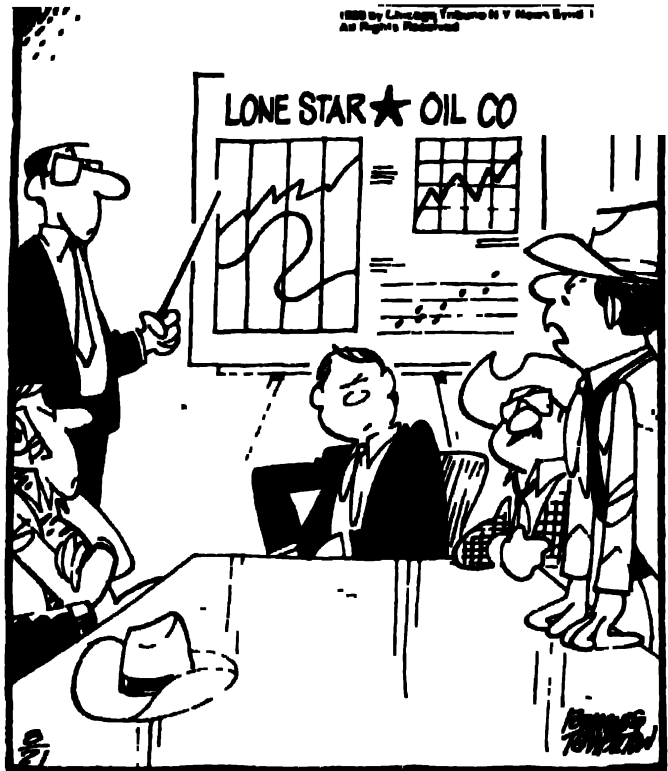
JOLLY GOOD!

Newbury Stephanie Jolly and Ewen Murray are suited "to a tee". They are both professional golfers on course for a love match. They are to marry soon, three years after first meeting on a plane while he was dashing off to a match. When she isn't playing, she watches him. "At least I'll never be a golf widow!" said Jolly.

BERNIE TELLIS



"... SO, AFTER CHECKING OUT THE PRICE OF GAS ... "



"TO HELL WITH THE PROFIT FORECAST FOR THE LAST QUARTER... WHO'S GONNA GET THE COMPANY TICKETS FOR THE OILER-COWBOY GAME!?"



"I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR FIGHTER'S RECORD... HOW ARE HIS TV RATINGS?"

ALL IN THE GAME

MOSCOW AT WIMBLE-DON?

Soviet tennis makes strides

The Soviet Union produced Alex Metiveli, but sadly he has not found one thus far to emulate him. Why is this? A leading magazine in Moscow laments that the sorry state of tennis was due to the decline of courts, and acute shortage of balls combined with the fact that the indigenous racquets were fragile.

The Russians are a formidable squad in the Olympics. Now that tennis is going to be in the list of events, the Soviet Union should take a warning that she will have to get it up to make an attempt at the Olympic tennis golds.

What then is the position of Russian tennis in the World? Strange, though it might seem, no Soviet player has been involved in top international tournaments since 1977. In view of the 1988 Olympics, no one can guarantee that the Soviets will display brilliance in tennis because the players have to be trained from the age of ten. The Soviet tennis authorities will have to take urgent measures to foster the game right away.

RENDER UNTO CESAR

Couch problems

Prior to the World Cup, everything Cesar Menotti demanded was readily granted by the Argentine Football Association for just one reason: Argentina had to retain the World Cup at Madrid. But Menotti had a valid reason for being criticised for not succeeding. At the same time he has taken

the blame all on himself. Now the question is: Has Menotti been sacked? No. Because the contract as national coach terminates in December. But many annoyed officials feel that he should be replaced immediately in view of the fact that Argentina will have to perform wonders in the South American Junior Championship. This tournament determines the top two for the Junior World Cup scheduled next year.

While the Argentina FA is still toying with the idea, Brazil, who were the hot favourites with the bookies in Spain, have asked national team coach Tele Santana to stay on. This was a request from the Brazilian FA president Gillete Coutinho. For Santana it must have been embarrassing because in his profession coming second is not good enough in his country. After Brazil's elimination in Madrid, Santana's family members were threatened and had to seek police protection.

Then again after the sorry debacle in the land of the matadors, the players had to experience the humiliation of being offered less by their own clubs than they got prior to the World Cup.

BABY BRINGS STRANGE LUCK

A birth brings a win

Being a professional golfer and running out of luck in all one's attempts since 1980 can be really frustrating and exasperating too. Poor Curtis Strange! How long was he to wait for the much needed break?

At Grand Blanc (Michigan), Strange had a stint at the \$180,000 Buick Open Golf Championship. Not



winning for so long, he seemed a stranger among the contenders. But Strange proved to be no stranger when he captured the fat purse. He said later on, "I drove the ball 200 per cent better and I'm certainly well enough to win again. Besides, it would be a nice present for my wife Sarah."

Late brought the smile back on his once again as he took the first place. He presented his wife with the prize money but Sarah proved that she would return the favour. Back home in Kingsmill (Virginia) Sarah was waiting with their first born baby. Strange after all can look forward to better days - and more luck with his son.

STARING PROBLEMS

All in the swim together

Dame Fortune was stern on Ricky Burrell, the only English swimmer to break a record in the 100m freestyle at the Optrex sponsored national swimming meet. Having achieved the feat in 51.74 seconds in the heats, Burrell was shocked at the final. Leave alone keeping to the record time, he was beaten hands down by Zimbabwe-born David Lowe. The Southampton man lost by 7/100th of a second.

One question was whether Burrell could have won the race had these not been two false starts. For a top contender

like him this could have an adverse affect. The first false start was a mass one and the second time it was Burrell alone. A third false start naturally would have disqualified him. Burrell heard the shot but he never got to terms with the race.

BENEFITS FOR MALIS

A step in the right direction

An entirely new venture is in the offing shortly: a benefit match for a mali who has rendered yeoman service for decades. His feats will surely go down in the history of the club. Shankar Pillai of East Bengal. He was a witness to many battles royal on the Maidan and outside Calcutta. Still going strong, Shankar mali is considered by football veterans and the present lot as the de facto guardian who always shared their joys and sorrows alike.

Malis on the Maidan are plagued by financial problems and ailments. It is due to sympathetic officials and players that they derive benefit, although these are minimal. And the plan to give Shankar a benefit match is definitely a step in the right direction. A humanitarian cause like this was hinted at by former East Bengal skipper Parnal Dev at a function. But Sukumar Samajpati who recommended this enlightened venture said, "Why have one only for Shankar? We should come forward to have benefit matches for the old malis on the Maidan. What a dreadful life they lead after retirement. It is our duty to help them." Sudhir Karmakar, Chinmoy Chatterjee, Surajit Sengupta, Mohammed Sporting coach Syed Naveemuddin and others were present who also expressed their love for Shankar mali.

COMING BACK IN 1981—AT LAST

CHRIS EVERT LLOYD tells how she trounced Hana Mandlikova in the 1981 Wimbledon final to recapture her crown. These excerpts are from the book "Chrissie" by Evert and Neil Amdur, published by Methuen.

"WHO is that?" Hana Mandlikova asked, staring at a picture on the wall "Maureen Connolly," I said "Haven't you ever heard of her?" "No," Hana replied.

At nineteen years old, Hana Mandlikova was too young to appreciate Maureen Connolly's three Wimbledon singles titles in 1952, 1953 and 1954. But any student of tennis knows that "Little Mo," as she was called, ranks among the greatest women players of all time. Sitting with Hana in the players' waiting room before our 1981 Wimbledon singles final, I couldn't help but wonder whether any of today's young pros could develop an attachment or appreciation for the achievements of players in the past. The game dances to a different beat these days.

As someone who had won two Wimbledons and was runner-up four other times, the half-dozen pictures on the pale blue walls of the players' waiting room were significant to me, especially the photo of Virginia Wade with Queen Elizabeth at the 1977 centennial celebration. Virginia had beaten me in the semi-finals that year before going on to win the final against Betty Stove.

The players' waiting room at Wimbledon sounds lavish, but, in fact, it has a chilly, impersonal atmosphere and is no more than ten by twelve feet. Players are brought to the room before going onto the Centre Court or Number One court for a match. It's doubtful if more than four players can sit in the room without feeling cramped. Four green velvet chairs and a hard green couch are remnants of other eras. Peter Morgan, who traditionally escorts players to the room, says blankets are stored there for cold or snowy days. There is also a notice of another Wimbledon trademark: "clothing which displays any form of advertisement (other than one manufacturer's small logo) is not permitted to be worn on the courts. Players are also reminded that all

clothing must be predominantly white."

The committee gave Martina some flak about some of her multi-coloured outfits during the 1981 tournament. But the rules are more lenient now than they were when I first played "The Championships" in 1972.

Losing three consecutive Wimbledon finals made me more committed than ever in 1981. Sitting with Hana, who had beaten me in the French Open semis the previous month, only put circumstances in a clearer perspective. When things go right at a tournament, it can work to your advantage in many ways; you feel positive, on top of things, as if no shot or match is too difficult. In Paris, I was more concerned with how my opponents were playing than preparing myself, and allowed other distractions to unsettle me.

My dad had to cancel his planned trip to Paris because of his high blood pressure. John was involved with a tournament in England, playing well, and also unable to be with me, so I invited my sister Clare, but the tournament came during her eighth-grade graduation.

"Would you rather go to graduation or come to Paris?" I asked Clare. "Can I think about it and call you back in two days?" she said.

"Forget it," I replied, figuring Clare would be jumping and ready to grab the first flight. "You know, the men are playing here, too."

There was a long pause on the line. "Oh, really? Is John McEnroe playing?" Clare asked.

I knew what was rummaging around Clare's mind. She had a huge first crush on John McEnroe, adored him and thought he was a cute. During an Avon tournament earlier in the year at Boston, I saw John, told him about Clare's crush and asked if he could send her some pictures. One week later, two giant coloured pictures autographed by John arrived at the house. One of the

pictures read, "Dear Clare, I feel the same way about you as you feel about me. Love, John." I was pleasantly surprised. John was busy, travelling all over the world, yet was considerate enough to take the time and make certain that the pictures were sent to a thirteen-year-old girl. Again, it was a side of John that the public would never see.

When Clare heard that John was in the French Open, Paris seemed much more interesting than eighth-grade graduation. Unfortunately, her presence couldn't stop a succession of room changes for me at the Hilton Hotel, after Saudi Arabian royalty moved into the next suite with an entourage of birds, animals and people.

I didn't see any camels, but the birds began chirping about 6.30 every morning on an outside balcony. Wanting as much sleep as possible, I complained to the manager. He informed me that the birds and animals belonged to the brother of the King of Saudi Arabia, and there was no way he could change his room.

"You are not the only player to complain," the manager said. "John Borg has been having problems too because there is another king in the hotel, and the king has had belly dancers in his room every night. The room is directly over Mister Borg's."

The French Open is a well-run tournament, even if it is not as familiar to Americans as Wimbledon. On the second Tuesday the International Tennis Federation has its annual championship dinner. John was still in England, so I went to the dinner with my mother, Clare and Susan Mascarin, a promising young American player from Grosse Pointe, Michigan. I didn't leave after the first dance this time. In fact, I sent one of my playful 'love notes' to an old friend, Ilie Nastase, during the dinner. "Dear Nasty," I wrote, "I don't have a date tonight. Since you have one, can Bambino be mine?" Bambino is Nasty's well-known, 200-pound, Italian-born bodyguard. Paul

Bellucci, who looks more like a menacing character from a James Bond Novel than a popular regular on the tennis circuit

Minutes later, a note arrived at the head of the table. 'Bambino says he will be right over.' Sure enough, the dancing started. Bambino came over, took my hand, kissed it and said 'Would you like to dance?' I got up, we walked onto the floor and about ten photographers quickly hustled into position for pictures. That sure was a first for them—and me.

Bjorn Borg and I were honoured as the federation's champions for the year. Photographers asked us to pose for pictures, and while we were standing there, jokingly I said to Bjorn, 'Are you going to take off three or four months like I did last year?'

'I think I should take a year off,' Bjorn said in a half-kidding tone. Right then, I could tell that Bjorn was thinking about a layoff. I had followed his success closely because many people—especially Ingrid Bentzer, had always suggested that our

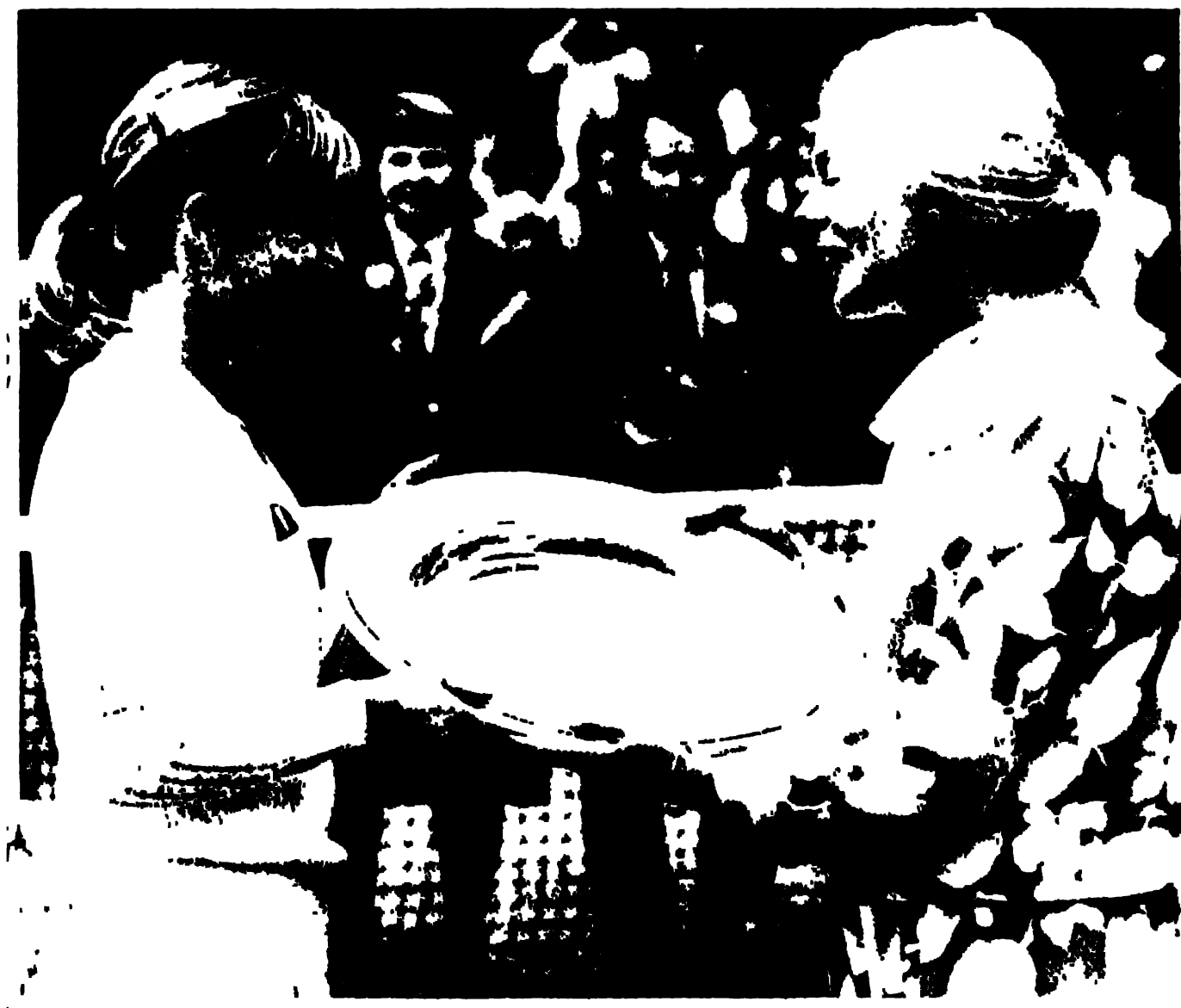
careers paralleled each other. I wondered after five consecutive Wimbledon titles whether Bjorn could sustain his motivation and goals. After a while, if you're a human being and not a machine, the pressure has to settle in. When Bjorn announced later in the year that he would be taking a five-month break totally free from tennis, I recalled our conversation and was not surprised. Bjorn won a sixth French Open title despite the belly dancers and his doubts. But my bid to preserve an unbeaten record for the year and win a fifth French championship were stopped by Hana, who handled Sylvia Hanika of West Germany in the final.

You develop certain feelings about players in certain tournaments. At the 1981 U.S. Open, for example, John and I weren't worried about Hana or Tracy as much as Martina and Martina played great against me. In the French, Hana was playing very well. I watched one or two of her matches; she seemed eager to practise and was in a good mood. The morning of our match, I was tense,

nervous, inhibited and felt like she was going to dominate. At times, Hana reminded me of some of my earlier matches with Evonne; I found myself watching her hit the ball. She was steadier, hit winners served well, played an almost perfect match and won, 7-5, 6-4. The reason I lost was not because of my own indecisiveness, Hana simply played too well that day.

Before we walked on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Fred Hovles, the tournament referee, stopped by the waiting room and wished us luck. I wondered whether Hana had given any deep thought to this match. I attach a great deal to mental preparation before a final, and Wimbledon demands even more understanding. Hana seemed filled with energy, perhaps because it was her first Wimbledon final and her parents had flown in from Czechoslovakia. But she looked like someone who was thinking, 'well, I'm going to go out, and if I play well, great; if I don't well, okay.' The look of determination that I saw in Paris was missing.

The omens were with me at Wim-



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ledon Having lost to Hana in Paris, there was no pressure of carrying a perfect record into Wimbledon I also withdrew from a grass-court tournament in Surbiton, England, because of a strained tendon attached to the tibia, and the withdrawal became a blessing in disguise I rested and then practised for about ten days with John, Dennis Ralston, Roscoe Tanner, John, Sadri and Pat Dupre I spent four hours a day working out—playing 2 on 1 drills with John and Pat, playing sets with Dennis—and went into Wimbledon eager Mima Jausovec's upset of Andrea Jaeger eliminated Andrea as a possible quarter final opponent Then Pam Shriver beat Tracy for the first time in the quarters, I respected Pam's serve and volley game on grass, but Tracy would have been a more difficult opponent in the semis As it turned out, Pam played our semi with a slight groin pull that inhibited much of her net game

Anyone who doesn't believe that laws and destiny can influence the outcome of a tournament isn't realistic At the 1981 US Open, Tracy had only one strenuous match en route to the title—the three set final against Martina Her lower half of the draw went wide open when Andrea, nursing a torn rotator cuff in her right shoulder, lost to Andrea Leand, an amateur in three sets The upper half had Martina, Hana and myself, I beat Hana in the quarters, lost a close three setter to Martina in the semis and then Martina, after taking the first set easily from Tracy, lost the next two in tie breakers Beating me was Martina's match of the tournament instead of another step, just as Hana left some of her best finishing shots at Wimbledon in the semi final against Martina

It our 6-2, 6-2 score lacked any drama, I was excited at having won a third title Even if Hana had played great, there was no way I wasn't going to win I had worked for six months Wimbledon was my goal, and I knew that when I put in that much time and emotion, I could win it After the match, I didn't want the awards ceremony to end, I just wanted to stand on the Centre Court hold up the Challenge Trophy, and enjoy 'Just feel this, enjoy it, don't think about the Press conference or anything else,' I told myself

HEARING the crowd clapping at Wimbledon makes you want to hold the platter even higher It's the greatest feeling, you've won it, you're showing people your trophy, you're proud of the moment, you're the best tennis player in the world and everybody would like to be in your shoes For me, a disappointed runner-up for the last three years, holding up the trophy in front of my husband, family and friends and seeing their joy, meant even more In seven matches, I had lost only twenty six games, the first players since



Mr and Mrs John Lloyd

Billie Jean in 1967 to win Wimbledon without dropping a set

The presence of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, along with Lady Diana Spencer, made the victory even more satisfying After the ceremony, I asked Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian K Burnett (that's his official title), the chairman of the club if John and I could meet Lady Diana, who was to marry Prince Charles later in the month

'I'll see what I can do' Sir Brian said Following my Press conference, he told me that Lady Diana was having tea and would love to meet us in the members' enclosure

I was not dressed to meet royalty In the excitement of the match, ceremony and the anticipation of going to the members' enclosure, I wore only a yellow warm up suit John and

I waited in the bar area adjacent to the members' enclosure and John tried to explain some of the royal protocol that went with such events For example, he said if a waiter offered the Duke or Duchess biscuits or pastries, none of the other people sitting with them would eat or accept food until they took their portions

'Why doesn't Lady Diana come over and meet us?' I asked, noticing that she was finished with her tea 'She can't', John said 'She got to wait for the Duke and Duchess first. They must leave first'

The Duke and Duchess of Kent are wonderful tennis fans You can always find them in the Royal Box during Wimbledon, and they have become as synonymous with tennis as Queen Elizabeth is identified with horse racing

Pulling 'short legs' over 'silly points'

Ted Dexter produces his formula to make a spinner's life more bearable

WHEN cricket was the only summer sport for gentlemen, the myth grew up that the same was, by definition, genteel. In fact, it was never any such thing. Those same 'gentle men' were brought up to take knocks in the hunting field and were not inclined to flinch at a hard ball on a bumpy pitch with little or no body protection. Since then society has moved a long way towards a softer lifestyle. The dentist and the surgeon do their work without inflicting pain. The motor car takes the physical effort out of cross-country travel, and a variety of pills and supports are advertised to relieve any other form of discomfort.

Cricketers are not immune from modern trends and the steady increase of 'comforters' is leading remorselessly to full suits of armour being worn at every turn. Nowhere is such padding and protection so obviously needed as in the 'suicidal' close fielder positions. Sunil Gavaskar might reasonably have escaped the misfortune of a broken leg had he been wearing adequate shinguards. David Gower could have saved himself four stitches over his cheekbone and the after effects of a nasty black eye by the simple expedient of donning a helmet—something which he has already said he will not overlook next time.

Both these injuries of considerable severity were suffered in the silly point position which is increasingly favoured by captains, as much to distract the batsman as to take the occasional bat-pad catch. Ian Botham actually admitted during a mid Test TV broadcast at Edgbaston that this was part and parcel of the strategy.

These celebrated cases involved Test players and therefore hit the headlines, but injuries are now being suffered daily around the counties and are leading to some even wider developments. I am reliably informed that the ex-Yorkshire captain Chris Old toggled himself out with abdominal protector and shin pads for the close fielding position and saw no particular reason to discard them while he bowled. Reports are also coming through of fielders using 'ball padding' up the shins, knee rolls, box, chest protector and

helmet. 'Get past that lot' may well be the adage of the 1980s as padded fieldmen form a kind of wall around the bat.

Two questions arise. The first is whether legislation should be brought in against the trend by limiting the amount of armour or by insisting on a reasonable distance between batsman and fielder. The other is to consider whether this new 'pressure' play actually works, and the latter point is the one that I find the more intriguing.

I have now watched a variety of spinners operating to this novel field placing. The distinct impression is that the effect on them is little short of disastrous. My disenchantment with the system started as long ago as 1975 when Tony Greig captained a newcomer to Test cricket, the then very promising Philippe Edmonds. The Middlesex left-armers had enjoyed a great success against the Australians on his debut at Headingley taking 5 for 28. But these figures were achieved on a turning pitch and critics sensibly waited for him to bowl on a 'proper' Test pitch before committing themselves.

The opportunity was not long in coming because the next Test was at The Oval and Greig soon called up his newly acquired member of the attack.

To my amazement and dismay the England captain immediately posted himself close in on the off side without even giving Edmonds the chance of an over or two to find his length and settle down. The predictable effect was to see a young bowler plugging the ball in flat at the leg stump without spin or any kind of flight or variety.

Now here we are in 1982, with the unfortunate Edmonds still unable to command a regular place in the England team and still striving unsuccessfully to regain the skills which were so apparent in his university days. People will rightly say that bowling defensively in limited overs cricket exacts the same penalty, but that is another story.

Now a new spinner, Eddie Hemmings, has been given his chance in the big time, with a reputation for being able to 'loop' the ball and to

show some of the old-fashioned virtues of variety.

It was hardly a promising start for Hemmings to begin his international career in the Prudential matches, although he certainly sailed through with flying colours. What brought a shudder of apprehension was the now obligatory field placing which greeted his first efforts in a Test match.

I defy any slow bowler to develop his full range of skills where the slightest slip of the fingers could result in serious injury to one of his teammates. To toss the ball high, *with spin*, is a delicate balancing act which needs perfect timing, co-ordination, confidence and no little faith. The slightest interference with this truly magical process will ruin the result, and I believe that the crowding fielders are doing just that.

The other point which is more a matter of fact than opinion is the absence of evidence to suggest that slow bowlers have profited since the new 'pressure' men have been posted.

Edmonds, Emburey, Miller and Hemmings have all had their moments. Indeed for all the catches that have gone begging because the fielders are too close, some victims have duly fallen to the trap, but overall their returns have been disappointing.

I can't remember the last time I saw the batsman beaten in the air, driving uppishly or being 'gated' by playing too soon. The genuine catch at backward short leg from the ball that turns and bounces is a thing of the past because the 'flat' finger-spun ball is by definition a 'skid' ball.

I don't remember a recent slip catch either, whether from off-spinner or left armers, which is truly surprising when the usual line is leg stump and angled into the pads.

The last straw came when the much vaunted leg spinner for Pakistan, Abdul Qadir, adopted the same stereotyped field. As luck would have it his only victim from his first 30 overs plus was Tavare, caught at silly point. I repeat, his *only* victim. Critics were inclined to suggest that his figures did less than justice to the way he bowled, but I take a contrary view. Not until he and the other spinners push the fielders back and permit themselves the luxury of greater variety—plus the knowledge that the occasional bad ball need not necessarily cost four runs, or an injury—will the best be seen of them.

As for the question of armour, I favour a total ban for fielders other than wicketkeepers, and a six-yard limitation in front of the wicket. Aesthetically the result would be more pleasing and the day of the genuine slow bowlers may possibly return.

Courtesy Wisden Cricket Monthly

FIGHT TO THE FINISH

The English summer ended on another exciting note with the decider balancing out on the last day of the final Test. There were great performances from both sides and though the result suggested an English victory

A CORRESPONDENT feels that Pakistan were the stronger side

I DOUBT whether even Talbot Baines Reed would have done it if he had ever approached his publisher with a copy in which a jokey bowler ran away with half a dozen in one innings, yet failed for the Man of the Match award because an unknown blood had scored a 200—that too at Lord's—and that side finished losing the series as the fates tight-roped on the last day then, doubtless to say, the feller's brains would have been beaten out with the manuscript itself

But it did happen. And what should be more surprising than that Pakistan lost a rubber they looked like wrapping up much before the curtains were drawn. For Pakistan, sans exaggeration, were the stronger side and the only department in which England rubbed shoulders convincingly was fielding. Pakistan won one Test hands down and lost the other two by a marginal record when the tally should, in all probability, have read 3-0 full stop.

England, quite rightly, are a very tough side to beat when the conditions are more familiar to them and, perhaps, just that much more impossible than, say, beating Australia Down Under. That the Pakistanis won the second Test was ample proof of their versatility and let not detractors get away with a word saying that Willis was not playing then. And in the light of their immense potential David Gower's cheap squealing about the 'greased' ball was quite unbecoming of an England captain. As Imran Khan explained later that almost every Pakistani gives himself and the ball a rub whenever it comes to them between deliveries, this being necessitated more out of habit born in Pakistani conditions. There, the atmosphere being basically dry, it becomes imperative for the ball to remain right through like a touched-up plum. In England, the maintained shine alloyed with the overlying humidity sometimes makes batting, like calculus and advanced statistics, mainly beyond normal comprehension. As John Woodcock himself correctly put the seal on the varnished ball affair: "They have great talent without needing to do that." Quite.

And to cream it all, Pakistan at almost every stage or the other had three or four to hide. In the first Test Sarfraz was out tending his little finger after trying to dam a chunky Lamb on-drive in the Trent Bridge one-dayer. Moreover, Sikandar was still working out his rhythm and probably whining between overs, "What do I have to do to get a wicket?" till as late as the third Test. To plug the momentary chasm they SOS'd in Jalaluddin, who only aggravated the problems by struggling to deliver the stuff Naqqash had by the time of the Lord's Test become a promising prop but he, too, spluttered out midway there and by the time Leeds drew nigh Pakistan were a desperate side.

Qadir, too, one of their main liners, never came across a quickish strip to lend the whip to his leggers, not to say that his effect had worn off. To discount their starving attack even further, Ehteshamuddin, their last and frenzied recruit from Daisy Hill, injured himself, too, in the final Test and all was lost. Imran's swingers, here one moment there the other, succeeded to an extent when everything mattered on the last but one day of the series and Mudassar dropped in his frisbee curlers to the Englishmen's nightmares. England made it—just by three wickets. And Sarfraz and Naqqash cursed in rugged Punjabi....

There is little doubt then that Pakistan were the better side although when it came to, temperamentally, they were just that much lacking. Their panache was clearly marked out as one of the virtues that they failed to bring adequately. The Pakistanis are without doubt the finest set of stroke players in the world but this time they hesitated to alloy it with a certain degree of caution and the ability to graft.

Seeing Zaheer, Miandad and Mohsin larrup away as is elegantly possible summarises the very epitome of stroke making and this they did live up to on occasions. But when the hour required a tougher mettle most of them played indiscriminate shots and fell. At Headingley, Zaheer hit two fours in the first

innings almost on the run, then fled after wooing a delivery from Jackman into Taylor's stuffed gauntlets. The feet were nowhere near the ball and, to top it later in the minutes of Pakistan's heightening gloom, Bari drew designs of lifting Jackman into the stratosphere, made an awful hash of it, bowled in the process. You wondered whether responsibility meant anything. And to a senior!

Another problem that plagued Pakistan was their playing relatively less cricket than the other cricketing countries. This, as Imran Khan cited, was the reason why some of the younger cricketers in the side felt just that bit tense when foisted out onto the Test scene to upset the equilibrium. Quite a few attempted reckless swishes in a sense of misplaced security as a mechanism to stem the adrenalin. With a bit of cloud and subsequent seam to rub it in youngsters played like immature novices at times and the push downhill was jerked.

Much of the problems also reared from where least expected—behind Wasim Bari made a painful picture of it on occasions and sure the expatriate faces at Leeds went wonky when Bari yielded eight byes off Qadir's solitary over on the fourth evening. England docked at 15 when the sun went down and everybody had guessed correctly that the run was going to be tough. And the next day when Pakistan had only four bowlers—one an out-of-form Sikandar—to share it out Bari omitted another 11 to make the English target seem all the more close. Add 19 to 219 with just three wickets remaining and Imran making Mark's look a goon with the bat on the last day and you get what it means to have an over-the-hill wicketkeeper taking charge. In the entire three Tests he left 58 byes, more than what most Pakistani batsmen made for their country! "Well batted, Bari," as you would say.

The general impression after having seen Bari over the tour has been that his days are probably past. He made his debut for Pakistan in 1967 in England itself, the time seems quite ripe for a suitable foot to step



Ooo how did that get away? - Bari winces as a Qadir delivery baffles him as much as it does Botham. Mudassar pursues

in his shoes. His collection on most occasions was sketchy and the quote of his 'keeping to Qadir—since Qadir seems most likely to constitute Pakistan's prong in the coming series against Australia and then India—comes from David Legood a man with an unsuccessful experience past him of keeping to the snaky legger. "I've noticed that even he (Bari) seems to be struggling." And if Bari cannot come up with the equation for Qadir then there could be no time more opportune to infuse fresher zeal into a monopolised department. And if the Pakistani selections do have certain intentions of fishing for a replacement then there could hardly be a better 'keeper in Pakistan than Salim Yousuf who went to England as Bari's deputy. A very agile mover, Yousuf also tends to be a bit on the acrobatic side not that it does

his abilities any disadvantage. And if batting is to be thrown in as a fringe consideration as well then the top brows out there ought to have Ashraf Ali in mind. But then that would be what Evans was to Swetman and ah, another story.

If there was another batsman who failed himself during the tour—let the series lie for a time—then it was Majid Khan. A batsman of immense talent who had been taken as an off spinner and a stumper, he probably had his best years with Glamorgan. Not to, for even a moment, mention that his later years were a blot on abounding virtuosity. He kept pace with consistency for quite sometime but there was talk of his retirement even around when Pakistan jumped the border in 1979-80. And this series told it all. His highest measured up to only 88 and once when plonked

onto the test scene he makes a frightful hack of it. If not his final encore in Tests, then this certainly looks like being his last tour abroad in playing capacity. There were also some whiffs of an unrest in Imran's sentinel over his presence. Rumoured to be at loggerheads with Intikhab Alam, Majid came in many circles for mild criticism which in the light of the recent Pakistani revival the brass will not be eager to entertain. His place, thrown up for grabs, could go to Nasir Valika, untried as yet, as his last season average of 66.50 off 931 runs showed him out as a batsman of no negligible promise.

Another failure was Haroon Rashid, though understandably Haroon is a marvellous player and no two minds about that. He had a tremendous debut of 57 against Australia out there in 1976-77 and O'Reilly predicted that if Haroon did not make his mark within one year as one of the world's best then he was not a true judge of a cricketer. Haroon never made it but at times he held out the forgotten promise. In his 108 against England in an innings some years ago he hit a Pakistani record of six sixes. Dumps then. Sudden revival against Sri Lanka this year with 153 in the first Test. Dropped for the third. Taken to England. Highest score 90 not out. Given one Test. Blackout again.

But Haroon's selection now was never justified. He had a miserable tour in 1978 and this time he did not do much better. The salubrious conditions for the moving ball have never been much to his benefit though back in drier Pakistan Haroon is a very safe bet in the middle order. The Indians should better watch out this winter.

Another one the Indians ought to be prepared for, and which goes without saying, is Imran Khan himself. Under him the once fragmented Pakistan side looks an extremely dangerous outfit and especially so at home. During the series Imran showed a considerable penchant for attacking bowling, the yardstick of which easily qualifies him as one of the best bowlers for a long time. There is this arm ball that he developed on the trip itself. As Richie Benaud says, "It is not an inswinger," and is directed intently with a late move to the leg. Coming with the arm it is difficult to pick and makes matters more mortifying when it is coupled with the yorker. Allan Lamb, during his innings of 118 in the Trent Bridge over limit game, almost fell over his back while trying to get out of the way (!) while some time later Imran did a repeat. This time Tavare was bowled, one short of what would have been a deserved half hundred.

Not only that but Imran has also risen to the top with the most lethal swerve of the world at present. In fact, Bob Willis remarked what an uncommon virtue it was of alchemising the

virtues of swing and pace the way he was doing

"I was surprised at the amount the ball came back from the off," was Randall's puzzled reaction after shouldering-arms at Edgbaston and finding the balls doing a little jig. Earlier, Imran with all his speed had Botham clean bowled even before he could begin on his downswing! And then at Lord's one of his sonic offerings ended on Randall's ribs while another on that same day sent Lambie's tin-cap whirling.

And what has most certainly added the fizz to his venom has been his captaincy, and more surprisingly so in the light of the Botham captaincy aftermath. Imran has been highly successful when you consider that a truncated Pakistan lost the series in Australia last winter. This is because Imran Khan, charismatic as he is, leads by example and what's more, his effectiveness may have been vastly increased had he not caught the injury bug, too. Imran showed the ability of inspiring his team mates through his bowling and when it came to batting he was prepared to play the hanger on when glue was the missing element. His 67 not out in the first innings at Leeds was blended with caution and the late addition of explosion, though in the second innings he supplemented to the plot that the material for a complete batsman was available.

Though Imran had a largely blameless series as captain and every thing to support John Woodcock's viewpoint of his being a "genuine leader" a couple of confusions arose from the manner of his handlings. For example at Lord's on the last day when England's batsmen looked just about pulling off a draw he called for the new ball in the 117th over. That the tail enders would have coped inconclusively against the highly speeding cherry somehow seemed to escape him. When he did call for it he threw it to Qadir (!) to reap the advantage out of a hard leathery surface. The spinner responded immediately and Haqoon had clutched on fast.

But Imran's sulphuric test is yet to be over and done with. Much of the side is welded now into a great force but, as Henry Blotfeld asks, "will they follow him as a team and pull together or will the batsmen take the same shambling individual paths they took at Edgbaston?" And which makes sense, too, considering that Imran is a compromise choice over the Miandad threat of quitting for Pakistan if Majid or Zaheer was made captain!

The other Pakistani who can go to his grave with the satisfaction that his life was well spent and popularity achieved was Abdul Qadir. Originally branded as a "surprise selection", he flaunted his figures of 53 wickets to write much of the story. Whatever other little was left to scripted came



I have done it. Mudassar tries to do the high jump as umpire Constant rules Lamb low at Lord's

from English writers. A certain Donald Woods was of the opinion that "You could imagine that face emerging from the mystic gloom of a Karachi bazaar to whisper dread tidings of deceit in high places and intrigue in the back streets, and the name Abdul is somehow appropriate, hinting at the mystery and magic that is about to be worked on some poor plodding Englishman at the crease."

Qadir was particularly fortunate in having a very understanding captain with a lot of confidence in him as well as a manager himself a leg spinner. Their main stand for bringing him along was because of the lack of English experience in playing bowlers of his type and the nature of covered wickets, thus shunning the straying moisture or the residue of the overnight rain leading to the chances of the ball eluding the spin

ner's tightened grasp

And the main reason for his oil strike—and which goes even without saying—has been his rare ability to bowl exactly three balls with the same action. It is not as elementary as it often sounds. The slightest change in flight, pace in the air or off the pitch, position of the arm and the chest-on mode of the delivery can be detected by pragmatic Test batsman like the Tower of Pisa, and then searching in groups can be demolished individually. But even till the end of the third Test no English batsman—though Travers at times tended to prove to the contrary—could tell one ball from the other. This was mainly the reason for an unusual googly grip of placing the forefinger beneath the ball as a lever for each of his deliveries. Thus, no former googly bowlers had ready answers and not did Randall when

...backed away to cut what looked like an innocuous leg break at Lord's. If only it had been. It came in viciously with the unready Randall backing away. He was saved; the ball took the inside edge, darted off and the batsman got four runs!

Among the other Pakistani come-goods has been Mohsin Khan. He could have, perhaps, found no better way than to strike big time news that with a fiction-like double century at Lord's, Mohsin was at his elegant station as usual, doubtless a Zaheer effect, and there cannot two minds about his future progress for Pakistan. By that time he will have also weeded out the tendency to fall excessively on the off side as well as the failing of flicking too early, thus, being across even before meeting the ball.

Then there was Miandad who, when he has was not hugging Haroon Rashid at Lord's, was perched like a bird of prey under the batsman's nose while Qadir tempted and teased. He let his old self make an appearance when he himself, while batting, stretched his hands and called Botham for 'wide' as soon as he sensed that he wouldn't make it. Not that Botham was pleased!

But I must bring into light his marvellous innings at Trent Bridge in the one-day international. He preempted a Botham prerogative, so to say, when he, backhanded, swept Hemmings thrice and to cherish the pudding 'played one cut with a crispness and certainty seldom seen since Denis Compton retired'. That was Robin Marlar.

And then Mudassar Nazar. Do characters in Pakistan ever cease? Not, I guess with bowling-changers like him. He seldom did so even for Cheshire as a professional last season and my cursory research provides that he came to England with just 11 Test wickets to his name. Well, he left Heathrow with another 10! And in just two innings. And to think of it that it began when Imran put him in to allow Sarfraz to change ends. 'Change ends' for in the third ball he had Randall bowled, in the fifth Lamb lbw by some strange voicey bit and Gower, the captain, off the eighth caught behind! My hand on my heart, some in the Press Box shook their heads and said, "What the hell is he doing? Pooh, a fluke and what else?"

Fluke by gad. For next day, picking up from overnight figures of 6-3-11-3, he roped in Botham, Gatting and Ian Greig also, now six for 32! But one thing was rather evident that he made shrewd use of the bowling crease. Inexplicably he was given little bowling while Qadir was fenced time and again in the first innings at Leeds—another Imran quirk. When he got it in the second innings Mudassar did something funny again. Now he captured four while even Imran had three! More

...and more choice words and in between: "What do I have to do not to get out to him?" Silence and then timber, then more bats and more choice words...

THE ENGLISH on the other scale looked a wanting side. On many an occasion their batsmen, who had fared so well against the Indians earlier, now played like wooden spoonists. For once this summer, Botham as a batsman was reduced to looking ordinary and never more so than when Naqash, son of the executive editor of the *Pakistan Times*, had him groping first ball at Edgbaston. Botham did go on to play a couple of innings of a very high pedigree but against a varied and talented Pakistan the century mark just seemed double the distance away.

But among the English batsmen the one that fixed the eye was Chris Tavare. Whatever one might say about his first gear innings that man has some ability. How many of England's present line-up could expect



Sarfraz (centre) is all smiles as Imran (left) and Mansur congratulate him.

to go out there and stand out a couple of hours? For Tavare most certainly could—and did. His slow scoring is, however, another thing. And that also comes in for much understanding when you realise that England's openers never really got going and that opening the innings was an unwelcome responsibility that was thrust upon him. He had never wanted it, the selectors had forced him to. Moreover, his 82 at Lord's which became the bulls-eye of much trenchant criticism because of his reticence, as people said was willingly enforced far from it. Just when the wickets were falling it was he who had the good sense to make discriminate batting a relevant virtue. His first 32 runs took him five hours, stretching his first eight runs of the morning over 24 overs. But later in the day when the sun had rolled past its zenith and with Botham and Gatting gone Tavare woke up the scorers. As if to prove a point, he bazookered from 32 to 82 in just 110 minutes!

Derek Randall was another one to be thrust out as an unwilling opener. He kept the flag flying with the only

English century of the series at Edgbaston but from then on the light became stiffer. He, too, didn't want to open but had no other choice. Even the figures bear him out as a poor blunderer. On nine occasions in Tests he has been out for noughts which comes up to a rough 18% of his Test innings. And as if to corroborate it he himself says, "I'm a bad starter and I nearly always bat early against the new ball. I haven't got a lot of technique also." One wonders what Dennis Lillee would have done to him in Australia!

But one of Willis' cadre of whom Peter May did have something to think about and mainly all in the encouraging was Robin Jackman. Jackman has always been an honest County bowler for Surrey and it seems rather a feed back to the good old days when old pros made their first tour of Australia at 35 and beyond. Jackman is 37 and all the more youthful for it. At Leeds, as if in support of Willis' statement that someone else would have to do the donkey work, he bowled not one less than 45 overs from the Kirkstall Lane End, the drive beginning at 12.05 and ending only at 5.40! John Woodcock rightly wrote later that "Jackman does the work of three men." Not that there has been anything in his abilities to prove that he is a shade beyond even the extraordinary. His being drafted into the master team was largely the result of the 'rebel' ban which consumed Hendrick, Lever and Chris Old, all regular steps.

But the enthusiasm of this man cannot be mistaken. He still, hour after hour, produces the balls on the off or its immediate nearabouts to make the batsman's life that bit uncass. Movement in the air, a bit off the pitch, an edge and an appeal all that Jackman needs for a decent living. Ah appeal! On any given soporific County afternoon when the erudite cricket correspondents would be having a quick nap to offset post lunch drowsiness there would be a miscalculation. And then, you know what I'm embarrassed rubbing of the eyes and "What happened, huh?" "I was Jackers." "Thank God for a second I dreamt I was sand bagged."

Apologies for bringing in Qadir once again, but what a man. The other day, you wouldn't believe it, umpire Constant had to tutor him on how to appeal politely! Unexpected things kept happening, to tell you. Like when Mohsin Khan offering his word or three to Allah, bowed to the Kaaba, or was it? Instead of the east he had bent the knee towards the south-west!

Great times. Great series. lucky to have seen every ball of it. My friend Bill Fiddall tells me that it was the first series since 1896 to have produced results in each of three Tests. There!

Why Miandad and Majid don't see eye to eye

WHEN the quicker bowlers are in operation for Pakistan these days, two former captains, Majid Khan and Javed Miandad, stand at first and second slip respectively. The former, of course, was not included in the side for the recently concluded first two Tests against England. But he was back in the team for the final Test, giving rise to the fielding arrangement mentioned. The funny thing was, however, that not once during the two England innings at Headingley did one see the two cricketers even exchange glances, let alone talk to each other. Intrigued, I enquired of a Pakistani journalist about this. Par came the reply: "It's what you call the Lahore-Karachi syndrome."

Mind you, it was not that I was unaware of circumstances that allegedly pertain to cricketers of these two cities, but the assertion by my friend, if anything, increased my curiosity, and my desire to probe further. I put the claim to Imran Khan, the captain of the Pakistan side, even suggesting to him that there might have been an act of non-cooperation with him by the Karachi boys in the first Test at Edgbaston. This he hotly denied. And Intikhab Alam, the manager of the touring party, retorted the allegation too. Actually, reports had already appeared in the British Press about dissension in the Pakistani camp during the first Test, and my efforts unearthed the information that Nuri Khan, the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, had given his countrymen a stern lecture just before the Lord's Test, urging them to more distinguished endeavours.

On the basis of this it's very easy to jump to conclusions—the wrong one that is—and harp on the view that poor team spirit, indeed, cost Pakistan the first Test. As I have been at pains to point out in the past, it is unreasonable to believe that any man will sacrifice his personal ambitions, and in the process jeopardise his Test future. By trying to hurt the team or a group within a side, an individual cannot avoid injuring himself. How can anyone be so foolhardy?

But, of course, there is apparently an undercurrent of hostility between the Lahore and Karachi lobbies. This is nothing new and has existed in Pakistan cricket right from its entry into the highest level of the game. Earlier this year, Majid Khan terminated a revolt against Javed Miandad and ultimately removed him from the captaincy. Majid be-

longs to Lahore, Javed to Karachi. The bad blood between the two players was probably as much a personal feud as anything else. But there was seemingly an undercurrent of the Lahore-Karachi factor influencing matters.

What happened was—and this occurred immediately after the tour of Australia—the entire Lahore bloc sided with Majid, and presented a *fait accompli* to the Pakistan Board. The next series was against Sri Lanka and Javed remained at the helm (without the services of the rebels in the first two of the three Tests) though not for the visit to England—the patchwork formula worked out by the authorities. Majid did not get the captaincy, he probably didn't want it, but his cousin, Imran, emerged as 'The most acceptable choice'.

From all appearances, relations between Imran and Javed are on a pretty even keel. The latter has, no doubt, batted nationally almost throughout the last series, but then this is part of his nature. On the plus side, he has willingly stood at suicidal positions, and also taken some excellent catches—in his enthusiasm he even claimed one on the half volley, at Headingley! And Mohsin Khan, who comes from Karachi and who at first sided with Majid during the post-Australia rift before switching back his loyalty to Javed—with whom he works in the same Bank—produced the most memorable batting performance of the series with his double hundred at Lord's.

The impetuosity of Pakistan batsmen and their inability to cash in on advantageous positions is often interpreted as a lack of allegiance. But belligerence has been very much part and parcel of this team's batting in the past twelve years. A surfeit of stroke players has contributed to this approach, and it's a malady they haven't quite got rid of even today. This might be described as irresponsible, as an absence of a professional outlook, but it certainly is not sabotage, as some have termed it to be.

If one reflects back to the last India-Pakistan series, it was precisely this lacuna that heralded in a substantial manner the tourists' downfall. The slow wickets back home do not encourage aggression, yet the Pakistanis were disinclined towards buckling down to sensible defence, and a wait for the runs to come. They paid the penalty, as the Indians, very shrewdly capitalised on this temperamental flaw and recovered the rubber handsomely.

Another unfortunate feature about Pakistan cricket is the inconsistency in team selection. This, in all likelihood, is analysed in some quarters as a manifestation of the Lahore-Karachi impulse. But the fact remains that failures are pounced upon much too harshly. Take the case of Wasim Raja—he got 14 and 60 in the two one days and 26 and 16 in the first Test in the just finished tour. But he was dropped for the next two Tests. Wasim, though not a prolific run-getter, has generally been rather useful when his side has most needed runs. True, he possesses an impatient streak, but then are not several other Pakistani batsmen guilty on this count?

And to embellish the titillating character of choosing teams, Haroon Rashid, who replaced Wasim, was tested after just one failure, Majid taking his place, and that too, unsuccessfully. It is said that the erstwhile 'Packer troupe' in the Pakistan side do not quite approve of Wasim, because he did not join them in World Series Cricket. How far this is true one cannot voice unequivocally, but the bearded left hander does appear to be a bit of a loner in the side.

Pakistan cricket today is probably more under the control of Lahore than Karachi, with both the President of the Board and the Chairman of the selection committee, Maqsood Ahmed, hailing from the West Punjab capital, though the former, a powerful figure, has settled in the port city. This is possibly, resented by Karachites, but name one cricketing country where there is no rivalry between regions. Bombay and Delhi in India, the Northern Counties and the Southern Counties in England, Melbourne and Sydney in Australia, the North and the South Islands in New Zealand and between one territory or the other in the West Indies. It is doubtful if this leads to batsmen deliberately throwing away their wickets or bowlers not taking wickets, although it is hard to deny sometimes that players do not rest on their oars once a safe number of runs or wickets have been acquired.

But to return to the original discussion—about the recent Edgbaston Test. No, I do not believe that any Pakistani purposely wrecked Imran Khan's chances of winning that match. I am sorry to displease sensation mongers, but I am convinced this is the way it was. And it is unlikely to be any different when India go to Pakistan this winter.

ASHIS RAY

My ambition was never to play Test cricket

Arun Lal, recently selected to play in the Test against Sri Lanka at Madras, talks to
MUDAR PATHERYA

"I DON'T want to talk before the Test. I'll give you my data and you can work on it if you want." A typical shoulder arms, I'd say! However, a bit of cajoling and our man is made. "Okay, see me then at 6.15—evening—at the Indoor Cricket Centre." So be it.

At the Centre Arun Lal is apologetic. "Sorry, can't make it now. I've been invited to *Sarvanajun ki puja* at my friend's place and there is very little time. Could you err," as Arun puts finger to lip and looks up as if contemplating the bulbs above, "make it by eight o'clock, no, 8.15, at home. We'll sit comfortably." Done.

Arun Lal's was a cricketing family. His father, Jagdish Lal, had played first class cricket in his time—"He played for seven Ranji Trophy associations which I think is a record in itself"—and what was more, he had a cousin in Akash who "narrowly missed playing for India. His father used to be abroad as he was in the foreign service, so Akash would live with us. I used to be very fond of cricket because there was so much cricket discussed at home on the dining table with my father and Akash. As a kid I remember carrying his kit bag to games in the Ranji Trophy."

In fact, Akash went on to captain the North Zone and even reached the Iram Trophy stage. He got oodles of runs—some 13 or 14 centuries, too, but somehow couldn't make it under the tricolour. You bet Arun Lal is making up for them, his father included.

Arun Lal did not play against the Caribbeans here in 1978-79 but in the following season he brought home his mark. He opened with 99 at Srinagar against Hughes' Australians and from then on was in the running. I think 1979-80 was his best year. "I mean till last season. I'd hoped that I would get a chance then then sat out for six Tests and then was painfully removed from the reserves even. I wasn't given a chance. And suddenly it seemed all that far away again. Being so close and the entire thing you are trying to achieve seemed so far away and then also we had a little problem in Delhi. There was this 'what do call

it' " and little Lal's voice trailed away.

Any political venture. "Noh, I'm not aware of anything but it just seemed a bit harsh on me. My entire reaction was this, that I felt that I was always going to make it, then everything started clearing away on its own. Suddenly everything seemed so far away, so far away."

But ah me, the following season of 1980-81 didn't turn as expected. It was a "fiasco" as far as Arun was concerned and he captioned it with a believe it or not air. "I was even dropped from the North Zone side for a match!" But a purple patch was just at hand. "When I came to Bengal I had a very good time and I scored everywhere I played. In one match in the Wills Trophy it was 48, in the Ranji Trophy I scored 48 and 46 against the Railways. The only time I failed was when I made eight and 22." Only the Bombayman Dossa doesn't keep figures!

But 1981-82 climaxed it all. He got 104 out of 237 against South Zone against bowlers like Roger Binny, Valson, Yadav and Narasimha Reddy—three former internationals and the other a near one. A week later he was to come up with another against West Zone in the Duleep Trophy final, the height of it for the none too tall Lal. "I thought that was very neat." Blemishless? I think there was one difficult chance, a return catch to Chavri early on in the innings. He is a great trier. I straightly drove it on to his right. He dived. He fell, got a hand to it. Just missed it. "A 109 runs was the result and East Zone ought to have won that match. They had Gavaskar's Bombay sinking at 136 for six wickets as a meek rejoinder to the Orientals 327 but somewhat flunked it. And, oh the heartbreaks. Vengsarkar lower in the order got into three figures and Shastri hit 134. West Zone never potted after that, in fact, they got 431 and wrapped it up."

There must have been a lot of pressure on him at that time I ask. "No, no, no. In fact, I couldn't care less then. Lal earlier on cricket used to get on my mind, was tense about having to perform, having to

perform, don't perform then you are out. Just hang and hang, people won't overtake you. But last season I wanted to play cricket and really enjoy it. I couldn't be bothered whether I scored a zero, or scored a hundred. It wasn't going to affect me—obviously one felt on top of the world whenever I got my hundred. Don't mistake me in saying that I didn't feel like performing. Definitely you play cricket to perform, but if for some reason I didn't perform then it wasn't going to bring me very down. That is probably the reason why I enjoyed my cricket last season. I was playing under that much lesser pressure."

Considering the weight of the runs he got against the West Zone you would naturally be inclined to ask him whether that was his best ever innings. He doesn't think so and ranks his 165 not out for Delhi University against Osmania in the Baria final as his high fiver. They needed 76 and there was only one wicket left. Sunil Valson. "I was batting at the other end," picks up Lal, "and you won't believe it, I scored the next 76 runs." All of them. All 76. And we had some good opposition. Shiv Lal Yadav and the like. Moreover, it was a mating wicket and the ball was turning a lot. We had a partnership of 80 in which 'Vally' got four. In fact he hit his first four after we had crossed the total!

And then Arun Lal comes up with an interesting anecdote. "When I shifted schools in the ninth I went to Mayo College, Ameer. There it was the first time that I ever did net practice because earlier on I would swing any ball down my side. Much to the concern of my father who would say, 'Play straight son, straight.' So in Mayo I got this chance for practice and my coach thought very highly of me and sent me for the Rajasthan Schools trials. There they had a trial match for the selection of the Schools team. I was told to go in and bat and, believe me, did so for an hour and a half. They called me out afterwards—wasn't dismissed—with 16 runs to my name. I was definitely in. I told myself and I wanted to wire my father."

But wait. By cripes, Lal was dropped! Because some mug of a master thought that short meant bad and said that he'd be harassed by fast bowling! As for me I expect the competition to hot up greatly between him and Gavaskar as they go out to bat in Chhapauk in later September. "You're 5 ft 4 in, I'm 5'6". Just the reverse, m'lud."

And then Arun Lal epilogues it with, "As far as I am concerned nothing has happened." Tremendous credentials for India's future opener—fingers crossed—and the wisdom of which will be only realised when De Mel works for difficult negotiation down south or when, say, Imran Khan pings one too short nearer the khyber.



ARUN LAL

JAYANTA SETI

I should have retired way back in 1976

Eknath Solkar talks to HARESH MUNWANI about his career

EKNATH SOLKAR: The name is a secret, contains up visions of a man brave enough to stand in the suicidal fielding position close to the batsman.

Solkar was born on 18 March 1948. His father used to work for the Hindu Gymkhana, known for its cricketing traditions in Bombay, and the young lad grew up in surroundings from which it was only logical that he should become a cricketer. Yet his entry was purely accidental. One day, the Hindu Gymkhana team was short of players and Solkar was called in. But he didn't have any shoes. A Samaritan appeared, lent him a pair and Solkar captured nine wickets in that match!

In a career spanning 27 Test matches, the Bombay cricketer scored 1,068 runs, took 18 wickets and held 13 catches. Solkar's initial

move into Test cricket was rather careful. He played his first Test against New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1969. With the very first ball he bowled, Solkar had the batsman Graham Dowling edging a catch to Venkat at backward short leg. Says Solkar: "Had that catch been taken, I would have joined the select band of cricketers who have captured a wicket with their very first ball in Tests." Solkar's last Test was against Tony Greig's Englishmen at Calcutta in the 1976-77 series.

All through his early years Solkar possessed a teasing flight while bowling spin and was reasonably effective. He switched over to medium pace because one day before the Delhi Test against the Australians began in 1969, one of the selectors saw him bowl with the new ball and was impressed. India was

Venkatraghavan and Abid Ali, along with Solkar, formed the outstanding trio of close-in fielders who were a menace to the batsmen for the major part of the Seventies **PRIAB RANCHAND** asked Venkat for his views on Solkar the fielder.

SPORTSWORLD: What were the qualities that made Solkar such an outstanding close-in fieldsmen?

SV: First of all, I guess it must have come from the fact that he had a natural flair for fielding. Some fielders are made and some are natural. Solkar belonged to the latter category. This gave him an immediate edge over other fielders of his period. His natural qualities were fitness, anticipation and concentration and all of them possessed in ample measure.

SW: Was he as good in the outfield?

SV: Yes, he captured the same qualities in the outfield too. Besides, he was a batsman, an intention to stay in the field would go.

SW: So he was sure it help to all four of you (Prasanna, Chandra, Bedi and Venkat).

SV: The way you put it, I don't about that.

SW: Would you class him as the greatest close-in fieldsmen you ever saw?

SV: It is difficult to answer that. Even I have taken many fine catches in those positions, so I can't answer that categorically.

SW: Let's go back to The Oval in 1971 and that wonderful catch that Solkar took to dismiss Knott. You were the bowler. Can you tell exactly how it came about?

SV: Knott was very useful in the middle order and was a constant thorn to our side that summer. His chief stroke against the spinners was a bat pad jab. That particular ball I bowled was pitched around middle and leg and Knott went well forward and played it with the spin but took care to keep the ball down. It was not at all a chance. It was a genuine forward defensive stroke. But Solkar displaying remarkable agility and exceptional anticipation, dived full length forward to grab the ball almost off the ground as it went. Only because he went full length on the pitch was he able to reach the ball. Here I must make the point that cricketers must not only take catches, but also make catches. And this is where Solkar excelled.

looking for a bowler to open the bowling with Subroto Guha. Being the team man that he was, Solkar agreed. It is as he says: "The team's needs come before mine." It was a decision that Solkar was not too happy about, because as he said: "If I had remained a spinner, I would have certainly played more Tests."

Solkar seems to feel that his career began its downhill trend on the 1976 tour to New Zealand. An incident occurred in an early match which indirectly affected him. "Bedi was the bowler and I was standing at gully. The ball flew from the bat and was landing just ahead of me. Though I held the ball, one of my fingers went underneath it. It was bent. The agony was unbearable. I was out of action for three weeks. I have never felt so depressed as I did during that time. I was frustrated, lonely and disgusted. It was ironical that a senior cricketer like me had to do the scoring. After this, someone started the rumour that I was finished as a cricketer and this didn't help matters. No one stood by me in my hour of crisis," Solkar complained.

Moving on to more happy memories, he recalled: "Gary Sobers was my idol as a schoolboy. I had never imagined that one day I would play against him. I first met Sobers when I was to play for the World eleven against England. Besides Sobers, the other members were Kanhai, Mike Procter, Grieme and Peter Pollock, Barry Richards, Eddie Barlow, Intikhab Alam, Asif Iqbal and Laroukh Engineer. I was to be the twelfth man. In the hotel I shared a room with Rohan Kanhai. When I first came to know of this I nearly fainted because at that time Kanhai was a great batsman. And the first thing that Sobers told me was, "Lad, polish my shoes." I was shocked because even in India the twelfth man never polished shoes. But Intikhab came to my rescue and said what Sobers meant was to ask the attendant to polish the shoes.

On the 1971 tour to the West Indies in one of the Tests the ball was being changed. Solkar asked to have a look at the spherical object. At this stage Sobers told Solkar, "You are going to play and miss anyway so what's the point. The ball has gone out of shape because you are always edging it with your bat." Not one to take that Solkar quipped, "You play your way, I will play my way."

Solkar led Bombay to a victory in the Ranji Trophy during the 1980-81 season. The next year he spent on the sidelines. "It was disappointing. For one year you are the captain, the next year you are out. It's for this reason that I decided to retire before the season began this year. Maybe I should have retired way back in 1976 itself," Solkar concluded bitterly.

Sussex appeal in John Player League trophy

THE sun rose for Sussex again and just when the one above seemed close to the nether west at Hove it was done. They beat Brearley's Middlesex by 23 runs and ensured the winning of the John Player League for the very first time and the fourth over-limit trophy in their history.

And you should have seen the thousands—full eight of them—jumping the fringe boards marking the boundaries after Middlesex's last had fallen. A Press colleague said it reminded him of the wave on the sands of Brighton—singular, in a sweeping curve and all powerful. Another, less modern, said that his mind had immediately travelled back two decades in a jiffy and saw superimposed figures of Dexter and his men returning with the spoils. Nostalgia.

Till this match Sussex had just lost one game in the League in the season and there was a very probable chance of their beating the League points record. But more than the winning strings that were attached to this game, it was the captaincy angle latched on to decide the more astute leader—for some the most Breatley, in spite of all his man oeuvring lost though he came pretty close to pulling off the staggering. And hence, the hysteria for the addicted at Sussex's County ground, the variety of voices climaxing and

then petering out with the come and go of deliveries from Le Roux and Greig.

And to think of it that the man over whom all down there had been rhubarbing over was, for a moment, not centurion Mendis but ol' John Emburey, who had the natives tangled in his bit of spin early on in the day. His eight overs yielded a parsimonious 20 only while even the hulky Daniel yielded 56 and Cowans 40. And later on, for the buzz there was Mendis of course.

Sussex began the day in decent nick and the 50 on the board rolled up in only a dozen overs while 93 was marked up in the twentieth. Eight overs later the mayhem had statistically increased by another half hundred and Sussex were moving Brearley permuted with his fielding combinations, ordered his men around but things never caught on. Middlesex's flanneled faithfuls even threw themselves on hurtling spheroids, but in the 'one run to just no avail.

Mendis advanced steadily and got his 50 in a flurry of drives, hooks and rasping cuts and many on the ground actually wondered why he should not have been doing duty at Leeds against Pakistan.

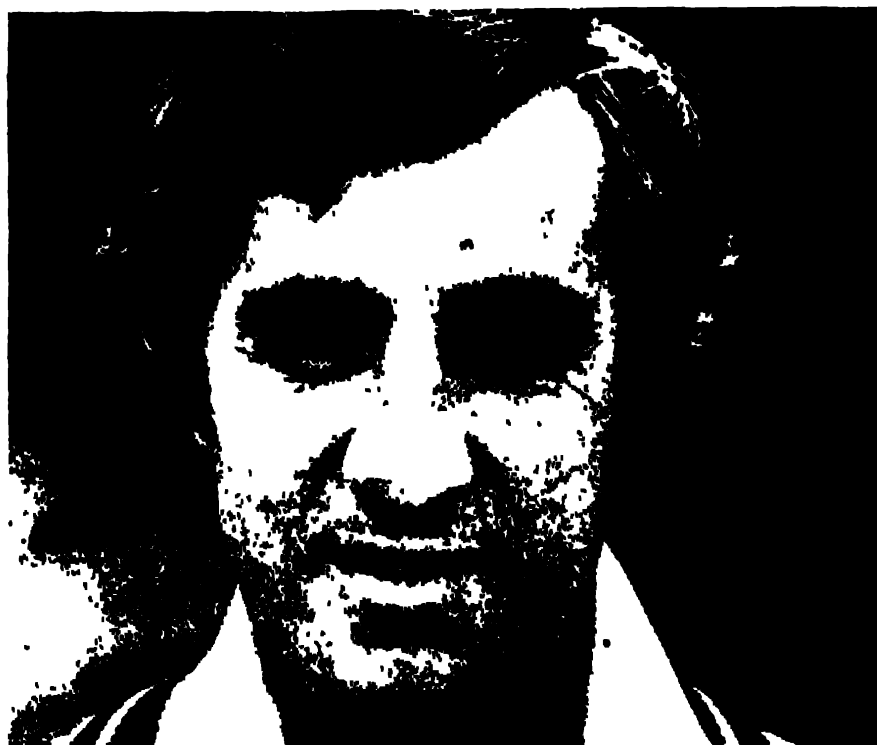
By this time Gould, too, had got going. Dressed down rather mildly

at that, by his more stroking partner in the thirties he showed his muscular abandon and was acknowledging the cheers for his 50 just an over after Mendis's. The stand was broken, much to Middlesex's comfort, at 134 and to Gould's relief as well—he was suffering from leg injuries and was noticeably wobbling through at times. Gould took liberties with a Slack delivery and it proved costly at 58 and some time later Wells—no artisan—went for a shot in the heavens and paid with his wicket.

These mishaps, however, did not deter Mendis. This Sri Lanka born right hander off drove quite powerfully and threw in the touch of delicacy when he late cut time and again as was unapologetically possible. He carved his 100 out of 180 and was out just five minutes before the closure when Brearley's throw found the sticks and he was back. Paul Parker chucked in his bit, too, hit a fiery six off Cowans and was bowled the same over while Le Roux put some startling beet into it at times. He made 23 including an outrageous six over the wicketkeeper's head. Sussex finished at 226 for seven wickets and the afternoon suddenly took on a challenging charge.

Not that Middlesex were outplayed. Brearley was out early and he shuffled and reshuffled the batting order and for some time the ploys just clicked. Slack picked himself up to make 31, Butcher hit an explanatory 59 and while they were on some peace amidst the bedlam of pleading was restored. Soon for a moment it was to turn to downright boogie when Paul Parker of all fielders dropped Butcher when the batsman was embroiled in his mincing. Mike Brearley, I guess who had once written that Parker was the best fielder in the world must have chuckled to himself in the pavilion at that.

But soon Butcher had been swallowed up by the pavilion and Down ton was gone, too, but Middlesex were advancing. Bitten nails mounting tension and more pumped adrenaline. 'What next?' most asked and behaved as if Hitchcock had produced another thriller. The visitors crept up to 203 till the last man Hughes was out and the dams burst. Le Roux had picked up three for 27 while Greig settled for two for 44 and even considering the overs left Middlesex were a doomed side. Even if their last pair had survived they would have been faced with unenviable exercise of fetching 24 runs off the next five balls—not exactly a feasible proposition.



Mike Brearley—plays failed

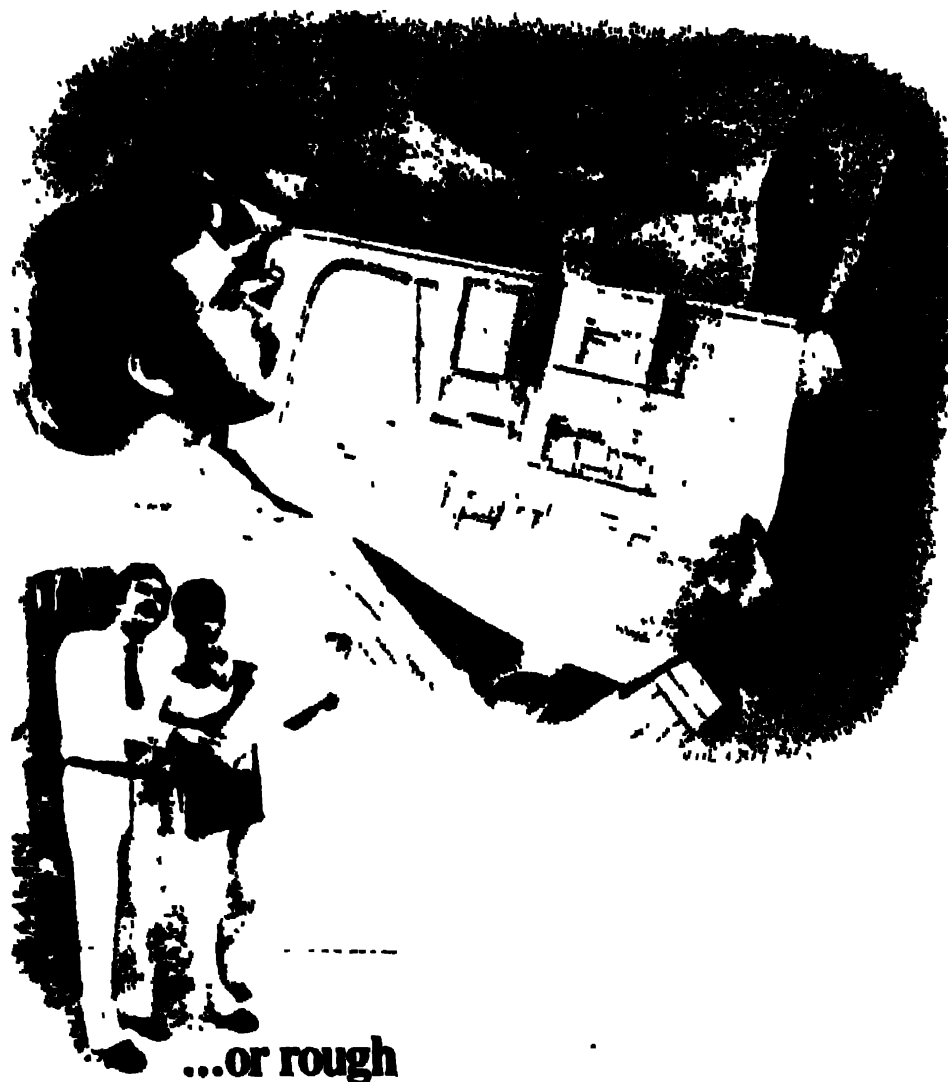


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US OPEN

Indian challenge collapses

**Disaster
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GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on how Ivan Lendl overcame Ramesh Krishnan, the only Indian representative at Flushing Meadow

INDIAN interest in the U.S. Open was snuffed out when Ramesh Krishnan became Ivan Lendl's victim in the first round. Lendl won 6-4, 7-6, 6-1. But, as the scores indicate, it was anything but the expected slaughter of the innocents. The match, played after the massacre of American Bill Scanlon by Wilander, came as a pleasant surprise to those of the record 15,461 people who found themselves on the Stadium Court.

Lendl won the toss and elected to receive. The strategy was to break Ramesh early and thus maintain a psychological advantage. Ramesh seemed to be suffering from nerves in the opening game and made all the possible errors, including a dou-

ble fault. In the entire game, Lendl made only one error. In the second game, Ramesh began to play his natural game and he looked comfortable and confident. Each man held serve for the next two games.

In the fourth game, Ramesh pushed Lendl to deuce and broke him. The crowd, almost entirely pro Krishnan, came alive.

But the next game presented some anxious moments as Ramesh served 30-40 and held advantage twice before winning it. During this game, Ramesh also came to the net, though without success.

Suddenly, Lendl began to force the pace and Ramesh fell right into the trap. The Czech swept the seventh

and the eighth game without granting a single point to his Indian rival. In Lendl's service game as well as in his own, Ramesh hit most of the balls out. Lendl just let him make mistakes after mistakes. It was Ramesh's errors rather than Lendl's winning shots that caused this turning point in this set.

The second set produced some magnificent tennis from Ramesh. He took the first set at love, served some bitter pills to Lendl in the second and won the third after deuce. He had a good chance of breaking in the second, after levelling at 30-30, but two risky shots at a crucial stage cost him dearly. Lendl held serve and then let Ramesh play another erratic game and broke him after Ramesh led 40-15.

Thereafter, both men held serve for the next two games. Ramesh pushed Lendl to another deuce at this crucial stage but let him escape once again. The Indian took the ninth game at love, this time allowing Lendl to make the mistakes. Then he broke Lendl to level at five games apiece, with another love game. A series of errors by Lendl in the next game gave Ramesh his first lead in the match at 6-5. It was tie-breaker time as the Czech held his serve.

After some brilliant tennis in the first half of the tie-breaker, Ramesh began to make some costly errors. Still, he managed to make it 6-6 after trailing by two points. But Lendl just swept the next two points at will, to take the set 7-6.

In the third set, Ramesh produced occasional flashes of brilliance, but the will to fight had clearly dwindled. "It was good tennis," said Ramanathan Krishnan, who watched the match with his wife. "Lendl is a tough player to beat. But Ramesh played well. He came to the net and played a good game."





Close-up

Piggott-King Of The Pigskin

FRANK GOMES

His desire is to spur his mount to the winner's enclosure. His aim is to break Sir Gordon Richards' all time record of 4,870 winners.

One must remember that the legendary Sir Gordon achieved this distinction between 1921-1954. His record, arguably, is more remarkable. He was up against other brilliant knights of the pigskin and moreover there were fewer meets at the time. The rule in those days was that a jockey could only get one mount a day.

It was, in August 1948—34 years ago—that Lester Keith Piggott donned silks on his first winner, *The Chase*, at Haydock Park. Since then both Dame Luck and individual brilliance have always been on his side.

Ardross is a horse Lester Piggott will remember throughout his life. This was the horse that enabled him to reach the magic figure of riding 4,000 winners in English flat racing. Allow one to take you back to the Newbury Racecourse on August 14 this year when Piggott reached the landmark. It was in the Geoffrey Freer Stakes run over a distance of 1 mile 5 furlong and 60 yards. Piggott's mount was freely available at 3 to 1 in the ring. In this race there were three other runners—Easter Sun, Aberfield and Bultin. Ardross, with the great Piggott astride, won easily gaining a four lengths verdict. Ardross's win was a repetition of 1981. As it is to celebrate the memorable occasion the wonder jockey won in style in the very next race on *Balanchine*.

Ardross wears the colours of sporting owner Charles St. George and is trained by Henry Cecil. Piggott and St. George are old friends. In fact, he does not remember the exact number of winners Piggott has ridden for him, but acknowledges, "Lester has never failed me every year since 1957."

As age catches up Piggott's public image softens. Race-goers accustomed to seeing him going down like a hard-faced pro, were in for a surprise when Piggott rode his 4000th winner. He was all smile as he signed hundreds of autographs and popped

champagne bottles to let people know how much he loved the sport. Piggott will run Ardross three more times before the latter retires to stud. Piggott will be astride Ardross in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on October 3. However, Asser's spectacular win by six lengths in the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup at York on August 17 naturally makes Ardross's task all the more difficult when they meet. The 47-year-old Lester Piggott is happily married to Susan Armstrong for the last 22 years. Glamour and money have not gone to his head and he still supports his father Keith, and mother Iris. Piggott received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1975. By 1971, he had been champion jockey of the English flat racing season as many as nine times.

sons or so he can cross Sir Gordon's mark of 4,870 wins. And what is more he will then become the youngest jockey to achieve this feat in the history of racing.

When Queen Elizabeth II visited Calcutta in 1961 Piggott also came down to ride *Risby*, which was trained by B. Gujadhur. It was a great day for all lovers of the sport in the city as they had the opportunity to see the champion jockey in action. *Commuter* (6 to 4) was the favourite with Piggott's mount being quoted at 5 to 1. Neither won. Instead the 12 to 1 outsider *Pa Bear* owned by Mrs. A. H. Billimoria, trained by Galstaun and ridden by Wally Swinburn won the prestigious event—the Queen Elizabeth II Cup—by half a length from *Commuter* with *Risby* still another half a length away. However,



Lester Piggott shows his gratitude to *Alleged* after they won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

The ace jockey has won the Derby eight times. In 1954 on *Never Say No*, 1957—*Crépello*, 1960—*St. Padav*, 1968—*Sir Ivor*, 1970—*Nijinsky*, 1972—*Roberto*, 1976—*Empire* and in 1977 astride *The Minstrel*. Piggott has won the prestigious St. Leger seven times. In 1975 he equalled the record of 21 classic victories. On several seasons way back since 1955 he has ridden well over hundred winners a year. In July 1974 Piggott rode his 3000th winner.

He rides throughout the world, frequently in France and regularly in England. He repeated the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe victory which he had in 1973 on *Rheingold* again in 1977 and 1978 on *Alleged*.

Piggott's winning spree is moving at a very quick pace this year, and if he goes on winning at this rate he may reach the 200 mark by the end of the year. If he can repeat this performance for the next three sea-

sons in the very next race Piggott was at his brilliant best riding a 5 to 1 outsider past the winning post.

Piggott at the invitation of trainer Galstaun was back again in 1968 to take part in the Calcutta Derby. He was to ride *Fair Haven*, the wonder horse of that season. There were eight runners for the event. The great jockey kept his mount a handy third all the way. At the 100 metre marker Piggott gave the filly the final call and *Fair Haven* streaked away to win easily.

That was just one of Piggott's many victories. He trains regularly but still finds time to do a little swimming, skiing and even at times plays a round of golf. It is strange that even at the age of 47 Piggott has lost none of his vigour, vitality and desire to win and is still the leading jockey in England. Age is no barrier and one is sure that "Uncle Lester" will still be around for years to come.

FORMALITIES COMPLETED

East Bengal dropped a point in their last encounter and yet maintained their unbeaten record, while Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting completed the weary course. SUBHASH SARCAR, SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, and DEREK O'BRIEN report on the last few matches

MOHUN BAGAN One of the most irritating tasks for a professional (or amateur) footballer is to play in a tournament after all interest in it has been lost. Completing formalities on the football field is as putting off to the players themselves as it is to the thousands of spectators who witness the matches. Talking of spectators, one admires (and on occasions ridicules) the devotion supporters of the 'Big Teams' have for their club. This year towards the closing stages of the League even when East Bengal were streets ahead of Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan fans of the two last named teams came out in thousands to egg their sides on. Isn't it just fantastic? Real football

lovers are not those who sit back in air-conditioned comfort to watch a pulsating World Cup final, but instead people who brave blinding rain or blistering heat, to see the vestiges of their team's performance in a league, for all practical purposes already concluded.

The maroon and greens played three matches in the week under review—two of which they drew and one which they won by the narrowest of margins. In their first match of the week they were held to a goalless draw—then third successive drawn encounter—by Tollygunge Agra gami.

All people in Calcutta from shoe shine boys to saave executives have

their loyalties etched out for either Mohun Bagan, East Bengal or Mohammedan Sporting. This correspondent (I'll let you into a secret) has a soft spot for Tollygunge Agra gami—it's a long story.

The match which saw the glamour team drop their eighth point was played on a slushy surface and the players of both sides had problems keeping the ball under control. The rain this year has not been as regular as the monsoon most in Calcutta like and as a result footballers have not been able to have the required amount of practice on heavy pitches.

The best scoring chance of the day came Mohun Bagan's way when Dennis Williamson, now settling into the

Mohun Bagan's Dennis Williamson gets a header past the Fort goalkeeper





Nirmal Chatterjee scores Mohammedan S C's second goal against Akya Sammitari

groove of playing in the Bagan First Eleven, raced down the left flank and sent a perfect centre to Amitava Mukherjee. The latter, as he has done so many times this season, shot out Shankar Banerjee, the present Mohun Bagan coach, one may add, used to coach Tolly before making it big. Love all it was—for old time's sake? No, Shankarda, we are only pulling your leg.

IT could well have been yet another draw. Yet another point lost. Yet another evening when abuse rent the air. Fortunately, for Mohun Bagan and disappointingly for Port Trust it was Denis Williamson who did the trick five minutes before lemon time. The ball came to veteran Ulaganathan following a corner. He chipped it into the Port penalty box and young Williamson kept his cool and headed the ball past goalkeeper Tanumoy Bose. Bose did a great job between the posts for his side and thwarted many a Bagan attempt.

The coach of the 'Big Team' Shankar Banerjee decided to bring on Khare Basnett, a young Nepali boy for the first time this season. The adroit striker impressed on his debut and might just be the sort of player who will be useful to lift the sagging spirits of Mohun Bagan for the IFA Shield. He is fast, has extremely good football sense, and one hopes, at least from Mohun Bagan's point of view, that he can dish out the brand of football he did in this match, in

the battles to follow.

3 20 p.m. Ten minutes before matches commence in the Calcutta League this winter bids farewell to the pleasures of air conditioning and a cushioned seat and is driven to the Mohun Bagan ground from the office in Central Calcutta. A ten-yard walk—flash of the Press card—up a winding staircase. It's 3.30 p.m. The match gets underway as one sits in the relative comfort of the Press Box. No problems. No complaints.

But it is a different story to relate when one has to see the match sitting in the green stands. And that is precisely what this correspondent did when Mohun Bagan took on Aryan. Journalists of the city were protesting against the Bihar Press Bill and this is why leaving the tranquility of the Press Box, this reporter bought a ticket and saw the match sitting with the public. It was superb. The comments, enthusiasm, abuse—hearing them after ages.

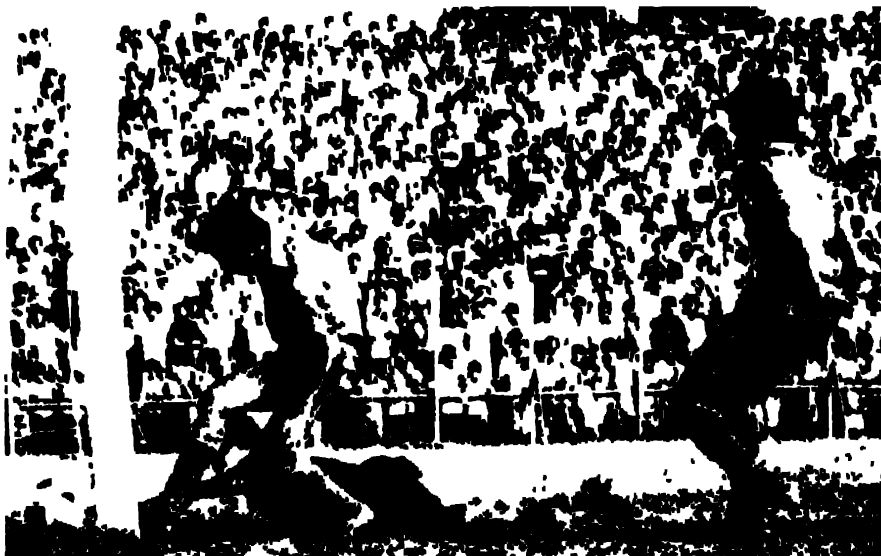
The game itself was played not in the best of spirits and was a classic example for youngster who wanted to learn how not to score. Krishnendu Roy lost his cool and was involved in a mini-fist fight with Sunirmal Chatterjee which was why the former was shown the red card. Subrata Bhattacharya, typically, once again lost his head and should have been penalised. Mr Bhattacharya will be well advised to control his temper.

He would then, undoubtedly, serve both his team and himself well. Constructive criticism this and it should not be taken amiss.

MOHUN BAGAN played their 26th and last match of the 82nd Calcutta League against Sonali Shibir to register their 18th win. One is sure all supporters, players and officials of the glamour team heaved a sigh of relief as their club completed their engagements. The league championship issue was decided quite some time ago, but then, the formalities had to be completed.

Shankar Banerjee's men had to wait all of 20 minutes of the first half to go into the lead as the Shibir goalkeeper Animesh Chakrabarti gave a good account of himself. Subrata Dev, the winger of the junior team darted down the left flank and then essayed a wonderful centre which went abegging. Dev gave a good account of himself and one would not be surprised if he finds green pastures in the years to come.

Gautam Sarkar who has had to do overtime in the Bagan midfield this year found Amitava Mukherjee who made no mistake. It was the diminutive Amitava who scored his side's second goal to take his individual tally in the League to 13. At the time of writing he heads the goal-scorers list along with Pranab Bose of George Telegraph. However, Amitava should have scored at least 20 goals this season, as he missed gol-



East Bengal's Tapan Das scores against Rajasthan

den opportunities to score. This is a League Mohun Bagan would like to forget—dropped points, injuries—the list is endless.

EAST BENGAL All's well that ends well. But, for the home team the end was not at all comfortable. They faced a stiff challenge from Rajasthan and managed to stave off defeat by virtue of a goal that many thought should have been disallowed. The Rajasthan boys went on the offensive right from the beginning and started making easy openings deep into the East Bengal territory, taking full advantage of the gaps left by the red and yellow defenders, who, perhaps, due to the heavy underfoot conditions caused by rain, could nev-

er find their rhythm and had to make desperate last-moment bids to foil their opponents' powerful onslaughts. Both Pulak Biswas and Chinmoy Chatterjee were but shadows of themselves and made a number of inexplicable mistakes which could have irretrievably jeopardized the club's chances of keeping their slates clean and emerging as unbeaten champions. It was only lack of finish on the part of the Rajasthan forwards that spared them such a bad taste in the mouth.

The Rajasthan forwards got the reward for their enthusiasm quite early. In the 8th minute of the first half the East Bengal custodian Tapas Chakraborty failed to collect a lob from the left flank by Probir Mazum-

dar. The ball went to Subman Roy of Rajasthan who beat a diving Biswajit Bose to place the ball home.

From then on till the 15th minute of the second half, it was a desperate struggle for East Bengal to get the equalizer—a sort of punishment for taking things too easy after growing some what complacent over their pre-eminence in this year's league championship.

And even worse, when the equalizer ultimately came their way, it came in a disgraceful fashion. However, the disgrace should rest largely on the shoulders of the conductors of the match, the referee Jagadish Pal and his two assistants. It was a clear case of off-side when Tapan Das of East Bengal placed the ball home with none of the Rajasthan defenders anywhere near the scene. But, what really matters for the big clubs these days is only a favourable result, or for that matter just two or at least one point. East Bengal 'managed' it and there ended the story of its 'glorious' 1982 league campaign.

MOHAMMEDAN S.C. Of all the three enclosed grounds, Mohammedan Sporting's is always the worst affected after a heavy shower. Their match against Aikya Sammilani brought more laughter for the home crowd, or so it seemed, rather than the victory. In slushy conditions, both teams concentrated on trying to get a hold on the ball but this soon proved impossible with the result that players slipped repeatedly, giving the crowd plenty of entertainment. In spite of the gagme, Mohammedan S.C. were able to take a firm grip on the match though the

	M	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Pt
EAST BENGAL	28	23	18	15	51	6	49
MOHUN BAGAN	28	22	17	14	46	4	43
MOHD S.C.	28	18	13	10	44	6	41
ARYANS	26	12	8	5	18	9	34
PORT TRUST	26	12	7	4	18	12	31
GEORGE TELEGRAPH	26	10	6	3	22	16	31
TOLLYGUNGE AGRAGAMI	26	6	3	2	18	15	29
RAJASTHAN	26	5	2	1	23	18	29
HOWRAH UNION	26	5	2	1	15	19	27
CUSTOMS	26	5	1	0	12	16	26
BHARTRI SANGHA	26	5	1	0	21	18	26
RAILWAY F.C.	26	5	1	0	15	10	24
EASTERN RAILWAY	26	2	1	0	7	10	23
BNR	26	4	1	0	12	12	23
BALKIA FRIENDS	26	4	1	0	11	19	26
WARI	26	1	0	0	10	16	21
BATA	26	4	1	0	10	20	26
BEHALA YOUTH	26	2	1	0	10	23	27
BARISHA SPORTING	26	2	1	0	10	20	21
KUMARTULI	26	2	1	0	10	20	21
SONALI SHIBIR	26	2	1	0	10	20	21
AIKYA SAMMILANI	26	4	1	0	10	20	20
KALIGHAT	26	2	1	0	10	20	20
CALCUTTA GYMKHANA	24	1	0	0	10	20	19
SPORTING UNION	26	2	1	0	10	20	20
KODDERPORE	26	3	1	0	10	20	19
POLICE	26	1	0	0	10	20	18

The gurudakshina

BUY two biscuits and you can avail your self of top-class soccer coaching. Don't believe? Then turn up at the East Bengal ground one morning. There you will see the veteran Amal Dutta, the proud coach of the victorious East Bengal team, putting his boys to hard toil under his watchful eyes to sharpen their skills and initiate them to the higher and advanced techniques of modern football. The seasoned warhorses, some of whom have come back to the club they once played for after trying their lucks in other pastures and some who have lent their allegiance to the side for two consecutive seasons, do not need much individual attention, but the younger ones who have used the absence of the stars, busy preparing for the Asiad at various camps, to good advantage the case is a bit different. What they depend on most is lengthy sessions of practice closely supervised by the coach, with the difficult lessons being demonstrated by himself.

That's a task a bit too troublesome for the top boss of a big team like East Bengal. Apart from training his boys, he has to give his serious thoughts to many other important matters like determining the strategy of his side for the ensuing engagements and utilising the pool of talent at his disposal properly by selecting those players who are in form and likely to be most useful for keeping the team on the winning spree.

But Amal Dutta seldom balks at the task. The most familiar sight for a frequenter to the East Bengal ground is an untiring Amal duta putting the junior boys, especially the goalkeepers Tapas Chakraborty and Tarun Dutta, to various difficult exercises to help th-

em grow into mature footballers. The guru and the disciples continue to work hard for long hours. Only, at times the guru demands a strange *gurudakshina*—two biscuits for every half an hour. If the *shishyas* fail to supply them, the coach is off. Empty stomach serves no purpose is the last piece of advice from the guru as he slowly walks back into the

club tent.

But then, that is actually to mean that the boys have had enough practice and now is the time for them to turn up at the breakfast table.

The real story

ALL the three big clubs—Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan SC had tried to fix up each of



their league engagements and were successful in most cases. That is the real story of our much-talked-about Calcutta soccer league in a nutshell," commented a worried Ashok Mitra, the secretary of the Indian Football Association, the body in control of the game in this State. "We are really very concerned about this growing obnoxious practice and we have got to stop it by any means," he added.

But how? That was the question of this scribe who was in serious doubt. If the Association does really have any power or plans to do anything effective. And Mr. Mitra took great pains to look confident and provide a definite answer: "Shortly we are going to bring the matter before the Rules Revision Committee of the Association so that the malaise can be cured through some important changes in the rules of the league and shield tournaments. The only way open for us, I think, is to make the competitions tougher by reducing the number of teams participating in the championship. It might mean creating a super division, which could put an end to this problem, because in that case the teams will be more reluctant to give away points to their superior rivals, as their existence on the scene will then be at stake."

Good idea, but will it finally materialise? Doubtful, because it can be predicted for sure that there will be no dearth of people in the Association who will go to any length to sabotage the move from inside. The football world of Calcutta today can hardly be distinguished from the world of politics. Therefore, it is an oversimplification to hope that these murky dealings will be stopped so easily just by making a few changes in the rules and regulations of the tournaments under the control of IFA.

It was again Shankar Adhikari who took the initiative of manning the attack and the Sammilani boys found themselves in constant trouble on the right flank. Shankar gave his rivals a harrowing time but it was just the opposite after lemon time. There was no Shankar as coach Navemuddin had substituted him for Latif, and the Sammilani side must have sighed with relief because Latif proved to be ineffective and frequently slipped.

Other than Shankar Adhikari no other player performed well and it was this winger who helped Somenath Banerjee net the first goal, after having missed a couple of sitters. Three minutes after the goal in the first half, medio Debasis Mishra created a chance for Shankar with a fine through pass, but thanks to the anticipation displayed by Aikya goalkeeper Amal Ghosh, the dangerous situation was averted.

Despite the fact that Aikya stoppers, Subrata Bhattacharya and Kanon Sarkar, ward off a number of chances they could not prevent

second goal two minutes from the long whistle.

LAST year, it was Rajasthan Club that kept everyone on tenterhooks when they were the only side that stood between Mohammedan Sporting and the long awaited League title. This year, too, the same outfit troubled the black-and-whites but once again to no avail.

Rajasthan has repeatedly given the Big Three anxious moments and this season they were able to wrest points from both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan. This must have sent shivers up Sporting's spines. In fact, Rajasthan could have achieved their ambition had referee Ajay Lahiri not overlooked a penalty against the home side. Barely three minutes after lemon time Prabir Mazumdar made a solo effort from the midfield and penetrated the deep defence. In such a desperate situation Anudeb Das made a hard tackle from his stopper's position inside the box and there could be no second opinion as

meant—a penalty. But what was most surprising was that Lahiri, though he was so close to the incident, failed to see it. When asked about this after the match he said that he was not too sure about it.

Playing to a capacity crowd in conditions after a short spell, it was expected that Mohammedan S.C. would give a better display but if the reverse proved true instead. In the absence of Majid, Shankar Adhikari proved to be a unique replacement. His performance against Rajasthan did not exactly set the crowd ablaze though he can be credited with doing the spadework for the all-important goal 10 minutes after the breather. He managed to lob the ball in from the opponents' danger zone for Somenath Banerjee to head in. Rajasthan goalkeeper Amit Guha had no chance of saving the shot but he played a mature game under the bar and earned generous applause when he made a couple of brilliant saves.

The first session concentrated on midfield play. Though the home team had the edge, it was the visiting side which gave a better account of themselves. Except for a few minutes into the latter half Mohammedan S.C. looked a weary lot and it was at this juncture that Prabir Mazumdar and former Mohammedan S.C. player Subhas Roy troubled the deep defence. Had it not been for Pratap Ghosh's alert attitude the home team could have found themselves in a tricky situation. Take for instance, the case of Pratap Ghosh when a good shot from Sribas Pal a few minutes before the breather touched the post and went out. During the home team's attack it was worthwhile seeing Rajasthan's defenders Sribas Pal, Anupam Bagchi and Shyamal Ghosh, who kept their cool and matched the opposition on equal terms. No one can say that Rajasthan were bad losers but it can be said that Mohammedan S.C. managed to cross a stiff hurdle.

ALTHOUGH the outcome of the League has already been settled, Mohammedan Sporting still has to complete their remaining engagements. Their penultimate encounter with Sporting Union was just a formality and yet they displayed full confidence to trounce the rivals four nil, with Debasis Ray accounting for two and Uttam Chakraborty and Mani netting one each. Initially, the home team performed in a haphazard fashion but gradually settled down to give the crowd their money's worth.

Surprisingly, all the goals came after the breather, because the first-half movements were purposeless and individual brilliance was absent. But after resumption Mohammedan S.C. wore a different look altogether and it was a pitiable sight when the Sporting Union defence was literally ransacked by Somenath Banerjee, Latifuddin and Debasis Ray.

Police A.C. eat humble pie

EVERYBODY who is familiar with Calcutta soccer will tell you that, in reality, there are two faces to the local league. First, of course, comes the tussle for the League honours. But there is also another battle—the contest among the lesser teams to avoid relegation. Undeniably, the fray has not always been clean. Manipulation is common on the Maidan, depending on the quantum of influence and the money which can yield results.

When East Bengal beat arch rivals Mohun Bagan in their crucial league tie it became clear that the former side was sitting confidently in the driver's seat and were well on the way to regaining the title. But what about the lower half? And which junior side was going to fall prey to manipulation? A stage comes during the league when one can form a picture as to which teams face the prospect of relegation to the Second Division. From this point on the normal course of premeditated matches take place and it is at this stage that the influence of the clubs in question is tested.

At one stage Barisha Sporting looked as if they would become the first victim of relegation, but when they realised this they took utmost precautions and survived. As the league proceeded the scene became more clear. Aikya Sammilani and Police A.C. were hard pressed to avoid demotion, but Bata was not in a very secure position either. It is quite difficult to predict the victim, but it is common knowledge that this

is preplanned. A section of the junior category—the syndicate—selects a side which will be relegated and one cannot help but notice that over the years, Police has been the side to suffer. Their fortunes have fluctuated regularly: relegation one year, promotion the next and then relegation again.

Aikya, the frustrated team which was in troubled waters was gradually being dragged out of the dumps by two untiring officials who command both influence and respect on the Maidan. Strange though it might seem, Aikya managed to snatch full points from both Calcutta Port Trust and Railway F.C. There was also controversy over Aikya's match against Rajasthan. The former team were leading when the floodlights went off because of loudshedding and the game thus ultimately abandoned. So a victory against Kumartuli—after their defeat by Mohammedan S.C.—would ensure their status quo in the Senior Division. Finally, of course, they came out of the woods.

When Bata snatched vital points from Kidderpore, Police were in the doldrums. Bata just managed to scrape through but Police had to beat George Telegraph to remain in the tussle with Aikya. They lost the ultimate battle and will be seen once more in the Second Division next year. But there is nothing new about that any more.

SUBHASH SARCAR

COUNT DOWN 10

Frenzied race for Asiad tickets

ASIAD '82 has raced up on us. Those who had not quite realised it woke up to the fact when the tickets were first put on sale on Sunday, 1 August. The long queues at the nine sale centres in the capital and the numerous stories of disappointment drove home how badly they had underestimated the situation. Such a frenzied response must have gladdened the hearts of the much maligned men on the Special Organising Committee (SOC) of the Asian Games who had always been racing against time from the moment work began on the project about a year and a half ago.

At the same time they could not have helped a nervous feeling of urgency. Not that it had not been there before. For all the claims of work matching the schedule, they cannot deny that a great deal still remains to be done with the "dress rehearsals" in the shape of national meets, only a few weeks away. For example, seats were still to be fixed at the Indraprastha Stadium—a staggering 25,000 of them—when a Press party was taken there in early August.

But back to the tickets. The demand for them and especially for the opening ceremony exceeded all expectations. One is told the story of an affluent gentleman who, having failed to secure the highest prized ticket for the great day, flew over to Bombay to join the queue there early enough to avoid disappointment. He simply had to have that little document. The television screening of the spectacular 1980 Olympic ceremonies at Moscow and other stories about the well-remembered Misha have raised hopes of a memorable show at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium on 19

November. Let us hope that our own Appu lives up to expectations when the time comes for him to show his paces.

In spite of all the assurances held out by the State Bank's Public Relations manager, former Test cricketer Vijay Mehra, that no bank man will be allowed to exploit his position as a selling agent to corner tickets, there have been angry complaints. But because it is always difficult to prove malpractices at ticket windows no newspaper has taken the risk of publishing names. However, it is already being said that a Rs 100 tickets for the opening ceremony is being quoted at eight times the named price.

Black marketing of tickets in sport and cinema is nothing new. It is a common experience at Test matches and soccer finals, here and abroad. To a certain extent it is also desirable, indicating as it does, the interest of the paying public in sport. Still, checks and deterrents have not only to be present but have also to be enforced.

The SOC cannot escape criticism on this score. No one is aware if it has set up any machinery to prevent malpractices in the distribution of tickets. Soon after the sale began *The Times of India*, in its prestigious 'Current Topics' column, pointed out that fake tickets were already in circulation and rapped the Games' organisers for not alerting the public of the danger. It will not be a bad idea at all if responsible

members of the SOC themselves join the queues in incognito in future.

The paying public spending so much time in queues just to take a chance of getting a ticket cannot be expected to take kindly to announcements of concessions and privileges certain classes of people like our MPs, the majority of whom cannot tell a javelin from a hammer. But not a single person will be unsporting enough to quarrel with the minister who announced that a quota will be reserved for the construction workers without whose sweat, and even blood, the stadia and other structures would never have come up. How he plans to put his idea into practice is another matter?

At the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium alone 9,000 were at work in a single shift. No words or tickets can be adequate reward for their heroic labour whose harrowing experience at the hands of some unscrupulous contractors forms a sorry chapter in the Asiad '82 story. A more substantial gesture has to be devised to express the entire nation's gratitude to these unsung heroes.

While there is talk of certain privileged groups of people getting their quota of tickets, we seem to have completely forgotten our old heroes. At least every former Asian Games or Olympic athlete deserves a special invitation.



HINDUSTAN
WATCHES
DELHI



Watch Division



Timekeepers to
the Nation



Hunt

QUARTZ ELECTRONIC WATCHES

If you've the inclination, we've the time!
The exact time!!

Hussain played well and kept the forward line busy along with substitute Uttam Chakraborty while Moidul Islam and Anudeb Das performed neatly without a single lapse on their part.

Though the first session was lack lustre Mohammedan S.C. had a chance of scoring when Somenath had only goalkeeper Jagan Banerjee to beat but shot straight at him. However barely two minutes after resumption Debasis Ray made no mistake off a rebound from the cross piece. Opposing striker Biren Das retaliated when he took a prompt shot at goal which Nasir Ahmed failed to grasp properly but Moidul was in time to save the situation. That was the only opportunity that Sporting Union got. The second goal was scored through a fine Latif Somenath combination when Latif centred and Debasis Ray netted his second goal. The latter was sitting pretty for a hat trick but that eluded him as Uttam sent in a sudden shot a few minutes later. The home side could have added a few more to their goal tally but for erratic shots. The final goal was scored off a defender when Mani made an attempt five minutes before the final whistle.

AFTER being down by a goal against George Telegraph the home side restored parity 22 minutes after half time when Uttam Chakraborty's fine header off a beautiful centre from Shankar Adhikari found the net. The performance Mohammedan S.C. dished out to the capacity crowd was unimpressive. Other than Shankar Adhikari and medio Debasis Mishra, no one else can claim to have played well.

Instead George earned applause for a better display. But the goal they netted was partly due to the fault of goalkeeper Gautam Ghosh. Had he been more alert he could have saved the situation. Apurba Choudhury's high centre to Mid Mukim found the ball enter the net from the inner edge of the far post. That was in the 29th minute. But a minute before the final whistle Mukim missed the match winner. Striker Pranab Bose played extremely well and his well wishes came to see if he could become the top scorer but for no rhyme or reason the George coach Shankar Sarkar substituted him. Perhaps the coach wanted to strengthen the defence. Since the match had little impact it was unnecessary to put Bose on the sideline and ironically his absence saw the home side obtain the equaliser. Bratin Sarkar gave wingback Musheer Ahmed a harrowing time as long as he was there. Although Mohammedan S.C. had better share of the exchanges it was the rival team that displayed a better understanding. However Mohammedan S.C. should thank their stars for drawing the last match to take their tally of points to 41 from 26 outings.

NATIONAL ROWING

Tamil Nadu best

THE Madras Boat Club, which stands on the winding Adyar river wore a festival look as it prepared to host the sixth National Rowing Championships, in the city from September 3 to 5. The whole atmosphere was beautiful and serene with calm waters, blue skies and lovely sunshine—an ideal combination for rowing. But the actual fare provided was far from colourful or even competitive.

But then maybe it was wrong to expect this to be a high class competition. In fact, it might seem incongruous that the three-day meet was held at a time when the fifth and final camp for the country's Asian Games rowing probabilities was in full swing at Jaipur. The national did in fact, offer the opportunity to oarsmen—who could not offer themselves for selection during the Asian coaching camps for various reasons—to reveal their talents so that they are among the probabilities.

This itself should have provided enough incentive for the participants to go all out. But sadly they were not up to the mark. No fresh records were set, partly understandable since the majority were not the country's best in the sport. But there were a few outstanding rowers and even they failed to break the barriers. The reason for this was that both the wind and water conditions were far from conducive to fast rowing. However, it was certainly not for want of trying that the competitors could not set better timings. If they could not overcome these obstacles, they smilingly and cheerfully took them in their stride.

Seventy-four competitors from seven teams—Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Corps of Engineers (Pune) and Combined Universities—took part in the meet. But from the beginning all pointed to a battle royal between Tamil Nadu and Bengal, the two top States as far as this sport is concerned, in all the events. And so it was proved when at the end of the penultimate stage, Bengal had entered five finals and Tamil Nadu all six. On the final day, Tamil Nadu asserted their supremacy in no uncertain terms and won four finals. Bengal won one and the remaining went to Indian Universities. This was thoroughly in keeping with Tamil Nadu's rising stature in the sport. They have made giant strides and there can be little doubt that Tamil Nadu is the No. 1 State in rowing in the country.

Almost every final promised to be a keen affair. But then for some reason or other, all the events ended in anti climax fashion. The most glar-

ing example was the open sculls final between Vikram Venkataraman of Tamil Nadu and Sumant Dhumra of Bengal. Vikram, a 20 year old final year student of Loyola College, was the defending champion while Dhumra was the winner of the event in 1977 and 1978. And as such it was a contest that one looked forward to with more than keen interest. Initially it did have the looks of a thriller. Dhumra (32), an experienced sculler held a slender lead at first but nearing the 500 metre mark, Vikram caught up and from then on it was neck and neck going for some time.

At about the 600 metre mark, Dhumra in a desperate bid to break away hit a marker buoy. His oar got stuck in the wires below the buoy and trying to pull it away he lost control strayed off course and hit Vikram's oar. Dejected and fearing a protest that would go in Vikram's favour, he gave up. Vikram seeing that it was now a one man race, also slowed down and cruised past the finishing line in a timing of four minutes 41.8 seconds—a timing that was poorer than the winners in the junior sculls. Vikram, a bright and talented youngster, was actually in the camp for the Asian Games probabilities, but had to drop out because of typhoid. This meet proved that Vikram had recovered considerably and was a fine sculler.

Tamil Nadu lost the other two open events—the pair and the four. In the pair, the Indian Universities duo of M. S. Aswin (Pau) and G. Narayanan (Madras University) scored an easy triumph over Humayun Jamil and Ravi Shanker in a timing of three minutes 30 seconds. The four provided more interesting competition. Initially, it seemed level going between Tamil Nadu and Bengal. But nearing the halfway mark the Bengal crew settled down to some systematic and serene rowing while Tamil Nadu started splashing badly. Ultimately, it was a comfortable victory for Bengal by two lengths in a timing of three minutes 47.8 seconds.

But if Tamil Nadu were beaten in two of the three open events, their supremacy was unchallenged in the three junior events. And epitomising this performance was Zarwan Patel. The 18-year-old Sherwood Hall student, obviously a brilliant prospect won three golds. Zarwan was a member of the Tamil Nadu junior fours crew that won the event beating Bengal easily in a timing of three minutes 24 seconds.

PARTAB RAMCHAND, Madras

Regional round-up

CALCUTTA

LMOB, yet again

LA Martiniere Old Boys added another feather to their cap when they won the annual one-day seven a-side tournament played at the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club grounds. Earlier they had won the Calcutta Cup to bag the regular 15 a-side tournament. Twelve teams took part in the seven-a-side tournament which was played for the Georgiad Cup. As in all seven a-side matches there were only two players from each team in the line outs and three in the scrum. The most important feature of seven a-side is fast running and the ability to play positional rugby.

In the first match of the day a young Armenian school side could not match the heavier Police team and went down 6-0. Other first round winners were the LMOB 'A' and 'B' teams, Tigers 'A', Tigers 'C' and Armenians 'A'. The last named brushed aside the challenge of the hosts C & F C from whom a great deal was expected.



Armenians and LMOB 'A' were given byes into the semi-final after their first round victories. One wonders how the committee makes out the draw. How can sides be given byes after playing first round? This does not conform to the rules of any sport and byes should be given only in the first round. Nevertheless, a young and fit Tigers 'A' made it to the semi-final taking care of Calcutta

Police, while the Tigers 'C' were no match for the LMOB 'B' team. The LMOB 'A' beat their 'B' team to make it as expected, into the final where they met Armenians who qualified after beating the Tigers 'A'.

The final was a complete disappointment with the Armenians being outclassed by LMOB. K. C. Lee intercepted an attempted kick to touch and took the ball on his chest to score a try and open the account for LMOB (4-0). Babul McLeod, who in this correspondent's opinion is the best kicker in India, made no mistake with the conversion as he also did after tries were scored by Richard Hooper and Davy Martin. The final score read 18-0, thus bringing to an end an interesting but one-sided day of rugby.

LICEL KOBRIEN

AAAWB grounded

It is common knowledge that the Amateur Athletic Association of West Bengal has no ground of its own thus, even when it wants to hold coaching camps, officials have to look outside Calcutta. To prepare the athletes for the trial games in Delhi the AAAWB had a screening test at Kalyani where 30 athletes were selected out of the best 150 in the State. The final camp was held at Durgapur's Nehru Stadium—the venue of the 1973 Nationals and also the tentative venue for the 21st Inter State Athletics in January-February next year—in collaboration with Alloy Steel Plant for the first time. There, the secretary of the association and the treasurer of the AAFL Mr Arun Banerjee, hit out at the State Government for not providing a ground for the association during the eight-day camp opening ceremony. The moot question is how long is the AAAWB going to be at the mercy of well-wishers? This is the basic reason that the athletes have very little scope for improvement.

But no one seems to care about the athletes and it is all the more pathetic that they practise on the side of the tram tracks. Strange as it might seem, they are chased away by Mounted Police with the argument that the lush green turf is spoilt. This is both frustrating for the athletes and embarrassing for the association. Accordingly, the State unit made several pleas to the government and police to provide a suitable area but to no avail. Ironically, the plea too was recommended by the State Sports Council. It is fervently hoped that the Sports Minister Mr Subhas Chakraborty will come to the rescue of the association.

How much the Sports Ministry has done thus far is anybody's guess. To encourage athletes many State Governments have announced attractive awards—and this has greatly boosted their morale for their preparations for the Asiad. What about the West Bengal Government? It has yet to set an example. It is a shame that a poor State association like the AAAWB has to volunteer to announce cash awards for those athletes who make it to the Asiad. To start with, Rs. 3001 per participant is not that bad and the State Government should hang its head in shame. Perhaps one can expect that Bengal's athletes will go the whole hog at Delhi so that they can find a place in the national team for the Asiad. But there are some doubts because the qualifying mark set by the association was fourth position of the Calcutta Inter-State meet as the Durgapur camp was held off season.

Why Bengal hockey is fading

BASKING in past glory can be very damaging and the Indian Hockey Federation has done just that. Instead merely deciding on the dates of various major tournaments the federation has a lot more to do to drag hockey out of the dumps. This is the opinion of Mr Moloy Kumar Basu, a council member of the Bengal Hockey Association and an advocate by profession.

He feels that the sport should be popularised at the school, college and zonal levels. There should be no piecemeal work if we are to regain our stature at the international level. It is sad but true that the IHF has done precious little in this regard. Look at cricketers and footballers and gauge for yourself the benefits that have gone their way.

Compared to these two popular games, hockey in West Bengal has always been treated in a stepmotherly way. As it is, hockey players get fewer incentives and to make matters worse, they are often given the impression that the BHA is disinterested when it comes to helping the players in general. Then again, there are about ten national umpires—and some of them are really capable of handling big matches—but they have not derived much from the game. Indeed, seldom have these umpires been called to do duty at national championships. Yet it was Bengal that founded the national umpires' panel in 1951. Mr Basu raps out that the IHF only tones down when the question of collecting payment arises. As a matter of fact,

there were a number of occasions when the IHF and the BHA came into direct confrontation with each other

But the BHA also has to set its house in order. At the moment the condition is rather deplorable. There is a distinct lack of coordination among the affiliated members. That is not all. Elections have not been held for the last two years following a court injunction. Finally, it has failed to live up to its former reputation because the association is not well-off financially.

Mr Basu, who is a fine sportsman, represented East Bengal, Mohommadan Sporting and Sporting Union in first division cricket from 1948 to 1962, and became a BHA council member in 1974 when requested by former secretary Santosh Ganguly and Sidhu Dutta. Bengal has produced many Olympians between the 1928 Amsterdam Games and the 1952 Helsinki Games but thereafter it faded into oblivion.

"Hockey today is not popular in this State and whatever popularity exists is due to big teams participating in the Beighton Cup. This premier competition is now withering fast and needs to be given a shot in the arm. Previously the winners were from outstation but presently it is centred on the Big Three, especially East Bengal and Mohun Bagan," said the senior advocate.

Strangely enough, the gate receipts from the Beighton Cup do not exceed Rs 5,000. Since hockey is a highly technical game it therefore cannot gain the same popularity as football or cricket and to foster it efforts must be made at the grassroots level.

In the past, English medium schools would take part in the league and Beighton Cup but now there is only one, Khalsa Boys School. Then again, schools do not bother to imbibe the hockey spirit any more and efforts should be made to revive the old image. The sports council could help out in this regard. The council should provide free hockey gear and adequate refreshments to poor players both in the city and the districts. Mr Basu strongly feels that outstation players should be discouraged from playing for big teams in Calcutta. Transfers too were often illegal and irregular.

Past stars should volunteer to coach young talented players. As an added incentive, cash prizes should be awarded to outstanding players in the league, the council member felt, adding that junior teams which perform well and behave themselves should also be eligible for the prize. Lastly, serious thought should be given to improving umpiring standards. Selection of a player should be based on points he receives from his performances in the league while misbehaviour will call for deduction of points.

As a member of the league sub-

committee earlier, Mr Basu has had a lot of bad experiences with regard to decisions which to a great extent have allowed the players to indulge in rough play leading to ugly man handling of the umpires and the game itself. The BHA will have to deal with such elements sternly if the pioneers are to come to the fore again.

SUBHASH SARKAR

DELHI

Garware basketball

At the first signs of a let up in the monsoon, basketball activity in Delhi picked up. While men's basketball is dominated by 'departmental' teams, the college teams hold sway in the women's game. Jesus and Mary College made a great start to the year by winning the Garware tournament, beating holders St Stephen's 42-39 in a keen final at the CRPF. Hawa Singh (right) lying to check Signal's Narendra Singh in the final.



spacious modern school auditorium where the tournament was shifted at its final stages after the preliminaries were completed on "open" courts at Delhi University.

With this win the JMC girls created a flutter in Delhi's basketball circles, for St Stephen's, over the years, had built up a strong team. Till JMC snatched the trophy from them, the St Stephen's girls had not been beaten in any major local basketball tournament for a couple of reasons. But JMC need not have felt flattered by their success. They richly deserved it, with Priya (11), Tehruna (11), Ritu Singh (8) and Sabina (8) playing their hearts out. For St Stephen's, A. Varkey and A. Sharma put up a gallant fight against their inspired opponents who wiped off a first half deficit of 16-26 to draw level at 35 all at the end of the regulation time before going on to win in the extra period.

The men's final, featuring two of the Delhi 'giants' also saw the dethroning of champions as AHQ Signals took over from CRPF. As in the women's final, a mere three point margin (71-69) separated the teams at the finish. But here the game was more evenly spread out. It was 24-23 in favour of the holders at the 15th minute, before the holders pulled away to lead 39-32 at half time. Ranbir Singh, an Asian Games probable, started in the Signals' triumph with a personal contribution of 33 points. V.N. Kuttu was the top scorer for CRPF with 30 points. But he had to retire eight minutes from the end, having collected his quota of fouls. The final minutes were truly exciting. The teams were tied at 61, then at 63 and again at 67 when Signals pulled to 71 and CRPF to 69.

Bumpy track

To the cyclists of the Railways went the first opportunity to try out under actual competitive conditions at the Yamuna velodrome, venue of the Asian Games cycling events. One regrets to say that their experience was hardly a flattering certificate for the builders. The Railway cyclists, among whom were more than one international, found the track 'bumpy' in stretches and not conducive to speed. But this was not unexpected. Several weeks ago, Madan Mohan, a former national champion who has shifted home from Delhi to Bombay, had made the same observations. Obviously, he had not been taken very seriously. If the surface on the curves is not smoothened out, accidents cannot be ruled out.

The railway cyclists were taking part in the Inter Railway championships. The spotlight on the first day of the two-day meet was on 23-year-old Ravinder Singh Nanda who won the 1,000 metres time trial in one minute 17.5 seconds against

drop-out from the Asian Games training camp for probabilities, Ravinder Singh blamed the track for his slow timing. The national record is 1:13.9 in the name of Satnam Singh Mann.

Northern Railway cyclists were again in the forefront on the second day which they ended with 61 points to win the team championship. Southern Railway fell way behind with 34 points. Southern were able to make some impression through the efforts of K. N. Gopal, a former international. Gopal, who won the 1,000 metres massed start, also starred in the winning Southern combination in the 1,600 time trials (2:14.0).

For all the gallant riding of Gopal, it was Ravinder Nanda who was the man of the championships, if such a title were there to be awarded. After winning the 1,000 metres time trial, he followed up with victories in the 1,000 metres sprint and 4,000 metres individual pursuit, before rounding up with a ride in Northern's winning 4,000 metres pursuit team.

Vaswani Irresistible

WITH the New Delhi Municipal Committee's Talkatora Indore Stadium reserved for the Asian Games, the St Columbas School hall has become the capital's temporary

home for the table tennis trials. Some time ago Suresh Vaswani had met with defeat at the hands of Nitin Puri in the Delhi Table Tennis Association Inter-club league. But when the two clashed in the men's singles final of the St Columbas tournament, Vaswani took his revenge in straight sets at 21-17, 21-13, 21-19. It was an upset, but for those who are familiar with a certain streak in Vaswani's nature, it was nothing to be very surprised about.

Excelling in tossed, sharply spun serves, Vaswani ran through the first game in barely eight minutes and the second in only six. Puri put up a better fight in the third game, but eventually found Vaswani irresistible.

The women's singles finalists, Meena Bora and the top seeded, Tins Sudan, were too defensive in their approach to hold the spectators' interest. The second seeded Bora went on to win the uninspiring fight at 21-19, 23-21, 21-17.

Both the boys' and girls' singles finals were extended affairs. Both Rajan Vaish and Rajat Kumar showed a refreshingly aggressive approach in the boys' final, Vaish winning at 21-15, 18-21, 26-24, 21-16. Deepshikha Soni won the girls' crown defeating Anuradha Dhawan 21-12, 20-22, 21-17 and 21-12.

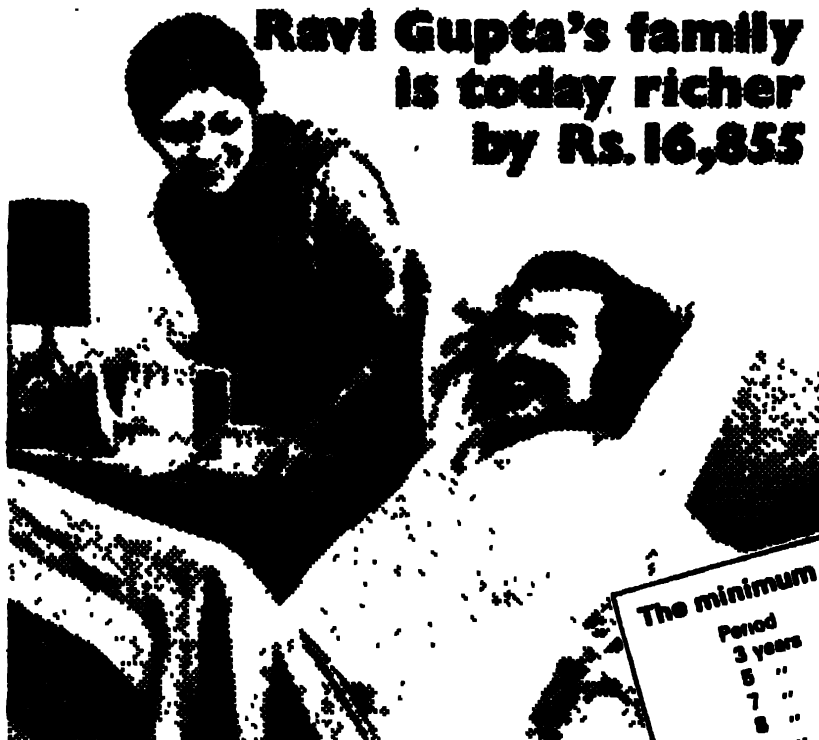
BOMBAY

Court rules swimming

SWIMMING in Maharashtra is controlled by an ad hoc committee, appointed by the law courts. This is because there are two rival bodies that are laying claims to enjoying a majority in the State. The ad hoc committee comprises nine members, three each from the warring factions and three neutrals.

That the meetings of the committee are not smooth is common knowledge but the extent to which objections and protests are raised on minor issues borders on the ridiculous. All in all, it is an unenviable task for the neutrals who have to keep peace between the two sides. So delicate is this task of balancing that no matter which way an issue is decided there is always going to be the allegation of favouritism towards one of the factions.

Last week, the ad hoc committee had to select the team for the forthcoming Open Nationals to be held in New Delhi in mid-September. Like at other times in the past, the trials were scheduled at the MGMO but one of the factions raised the objection that the selection trials cannot be held at the MGMO pool because it is three inches short of the specified length.



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How is that this had never been brought up in previous years? The mystery will remain! But rather than be accused of being unfair, the neutrals decided to hold the trials at the Navy Pool, which is at the southern end of Bombay. Never were those three matches more important.

HARESH MUNWANI

MADRAS

Titles for S Railway

It has been a busy week and almost every sport has been featured in newspaper headlines. Football, hockey, cricket, swimming, basketball, badminton and table tennis are the sports that have received prominent coverage here over the past week.

The spotlight has been shared by hockey and swimming. Southern Railway retained the senior division hockey league title for the fourth year in succession when they defeated Central Excise by two goals to one in their final match. They finished with 15 points from nine games. Integral Coach Factory, with 14 points from their nine encounters, finished second.

Southern Railway also won the water polo title in the State Aquatic meet which concluded over the weekend. They beat others 22-3 in a hopelessly one-sided final. But the main honour of the three-day meet went to the women who set up 12 records in the 12 events. The star turn was provided by Javida Begum, a pupil of Rosary Matric School and Rama Narasimhan, a student of Ethiraj College. The two lasses set new marks in every event they took part in and in every style of the sport. In the process they also set up a healthy contest for the individual title. Ultimately, Javida won in a close finish, notching up 64 points to Rama's 61. Muralidharan of Southern Railway won the men's individual title with 56 points.

Former National Junior champion R. Hari is in good form this season. Traditionally a brilliant, but erratic player, Hari seems to have steadied his game of late, and has won a couple of good titles, including the Southern India Zonal Championship. Over the weekend, he won the Don Bosco table tennis title defeating V Chandramouli, in four games. It was a fine match between two young attacking players, but Hari always seemed the better player. Radha Ram outlasted Kanchana Kumar after five games in a battle between two married women for the women's title. Also going to five games was the juniors final between R. Vineeth and Narain Gopinath, which was won by the former in five games.

For all the deeds of Javida Begum and Rama Narasimhan in the State Aquatic meet, the sports personality

of the week was certainly Deepak Purohit. The teenaged engineering student surprised everyone by grabbing a treble in the State badminton championships. First he got the better of the experienced Jo Jo Kunjupalu 15-12, 15-12 in a well-contested men's singles final. Then he and G. M. Giridharan won the doubles with a 15-1, 15-12 win over S. Agarwal and Jo Jo. Finally he completed his treble by claiming the mixed doubles title too. He and Neera Sachdev comfortably beat G. M. Giridhar and Devi Palaniswamy 15-5, 15-9. He won the three titles in the space of a couple of hours and is obviously a youth of great talent, skill and boundless energy.

Venkat bags 6 for 74

THE cricket season in the city has gathered momentum. The Buchi Babu invitation tournament semi-finals were played during the week. Mafatlal Sports Club, Bombay, winners of the shield and Tamil Nadu Cricket Association President's XI, virtually the State side, were to meet in the three-day final, which commences on September 5. The semi-final between TNCA President's XI and Hyderabad Cricket Association, which was also virtually a State side, was a keen affair, with there being a



battle royal for the first innings lead. The home team led off with a total of 325. Srikanth made a typical 60 and then useful knocks came from T. E. Srinivasan (56) and M. O. Parthasarathy (75), who shared a century stand for the fourth wicket. The latter, in fact, was included only on the morning of the match because Jabbar was unwell. Hyderabad remained in the hunt till the second evening when they were 161 for three. But Venkataraghavan, who

has really been bowling very well this season, slowly wrested the initiative for the home team, capturing six wickets for 74.

The other semi-final between Mafatlal and holders Indian Airlines was hopelessly one-sided. Mafatlal scored 372 and when Airlines were dismissed for 182 on the morning of the final day, the latter conceded the match.

Actually Mafatlal had a good batting practice against the TNCA XI in the quarter-final. The TNCA XI constituted the second rank of State players, mostly juniors. TNCA XI could score only 209 in the opening match of the tournament, with left-handed R. Madhavan making 90. Then Mafatlal batted from the first evening to the third morning, hammering 528 runs for seven declared. Chandrakant Pandit, the captain, hit 214 not out, the first double century in the tournament since it was revived in 1967. In the remaining time, TNCA XI scored 251 for seven, with K. Srinath, younger brother of Test cricketer K. Srikkanth, helping him sell to an attacking 110.

The standard of play has slowly picked up in the Jaihind Cup football tournament. This is only to be expected as the semi-final stage has been almost completed. Madras Football Association XI and Integral Coach Factory have already made it to the penultimate rounds after having topped their respective quarter-final league clusters.

The State level basketball tournament is also entering the home stretch. State Bank and Indian Overseas Bank, joint favourites for the title, made it to the semi-final. While State Bank beat Madras Port Trust 80-69, IOB just about got the better of the hosts K. Leela John Memorial Club 78-73.

PAINTAL HANUJAND

BANGALORE

Ubhayakar retains title

NARENDRA UBHAYAKAR (State Bank of Mysore) retained the men's singles title of the State Badminton Championships, which were held at the Bowling Institute, Bangalore. He overwhelmed K. P. Vasanth Kumar (Syndicate Bank, Manipal) 15-3, 11-5, 15-4. Prabhat Shetty of Mangalore beat Kalvan Shankar 15-8, 17-4, 17-14 to bag the boy's title and last year's ladies' champion Sheela Das made short work of Sheela Janardhan 11-6, 11-5.

Narendra Ubhayakar has been named captain of the 8-member team for the inter-State and inter-zonal championships to be held at New Delhi from September 14-19. (This was Narendra's third straight victory of the season, having lost the first to Vasanth.)

TT for deaf and dumb

FOR the first time, a national table tennis championships for the deaf was held here. The 22-year-old A K Asha of Karnataka was the star performer. She completed a deserving treble by winning the singles, the doubles (partnering G Vasantha) and the mixed doubles (combining with brother A K Umesh) titles.

Earlier in the singles, she gave a tremendous display to down Nirmala of Andhra Pradesh. The score, 21-5, 21-11, 21-10. In the team event, Maruthi Prasad and Ramkrishna Raju were the main contributors towards Andhra Pradesh's 5-2 win over Karnataka, enabling their State to bag the team's championships.

Laurels for Bangalore

BANGALORE city captured the Overall championships shield at the State-level Women's Sports Festival at Bellary, with an overall tally of 86 points. They also claimed the gymnastics and athletic team championships. The swimming honours went to the State Swimming champ—Lorraine Verghese of Bangalore, who tallied 26 points. Kanchana of Bangalore bagged the individual athletic shield with a score of 11 points.

Golf tourney

THE 10th Bangalore Golf Club Open Championships got under way on Sept 2. The 72 hole 4 day event is one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in the country and has attracted some of the big names of the game. The Bombay-based British professional and defending champion, Phillip Pilling, was the favourite of the tournament which has a prize money of Rs. 30,000.

The tournament is open to professionals, amateurs and caddies and has attracted a total of 67 entries. Kirloskar Electric company are the sponsors of the tournament.

New motor sports club

A NEW motor sports club—The Indian Automotive Sports Club—has roomed into the scene. The president of the club, Ravi Gupta (who was the former secretary of the KSMC and the former president of the Federation of Motor Sports Club of India) stated that the club was formed with the intention of giving the sport a new impetus and encouraging fresh talent.

Inter-university chess

BOMBAY, Madurai Kamaraj, IIT, BMadras, Osmania and Patna scored the maximum of 4 points in the first round of the 18th All-India Inter-university Chess Championships, held at the Karnataka

Regional Engineering College, Suratkai.

Patna, which has national star, Yusuf Hassan, playing for them, were awarded a walkover by the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, since the team arrived late, having lost their luggage on train journey between Jhansi and Bhopal.

Bewildering

BEWILDERING indeed, are the ways of our sports officials. This time, Karnataka's No 1 table tennis player G K Vishwanath was the scapegoat of the antics of these officials. His name was mysteriously missing in the list of 25-probables for the Asiad trial games to be held at the capital. Vishwanath finished 3rd and 5th in the South and West Zonal Championships, respectively. Since the criteria for selection were the performances of a player in two zones, his exclusion was even more questionable.

Volleyball Federation meeting

THE executive committee and general body of the Volleyball Federation of India met in Bangalore on August 29, under the chairmanship of the president Sivanti Adityan. The purpose of the meeting was to draw up the programmes for the Asiad. The draw of the Asiad would be held in the first week of November, in the presence of Yim Chairman of the Asian Sports Organising Committee from Seoul and Ahmeda, vice-president of the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC). A 14 member Indian team would be picked at the end of September for the Asiad. A USSR team's tour of the country or a tour of an Indian team to that country was also on the agenda. Adityan, admitted that the Indian team could only hope for a bronze and no more at the Asiad.

SHANTI MOHANRANGAM

TRIVANDRUM

Associations merge

LIKE our political parties and organisations, sports associations and federations in Kerala are in the process of splitting and fragmenting, resulting in groups and splinter groups. However, something good has prevailed upon our athletes belonging to the Kerala Athletic Welfare Association and Kerala Athletic Association. The two athletic welfare associations have merged into a single body recently. Olympian Suresh Babu is the president of the new association. Other office-bearers are as follows—Vice presidents: Mr M C Verghese, C M Joseph, M V Chandy, Secretary: P Sasidharan Nair, Joint secretaries: Mr K C

Suresh Umar and Mr Jajeeb Mohammed, Treasurer: P Javaprakash. Ex-MLA Mr K C Vamadevam will be the patron of the association.

Welfare fund for sportsmen

THE Kerala Sports Council has finalised a scheme to constitute a welfare fund for sportsmen and to provide them with insurance cover. This was announced by Mr V G Govindan Nair, Vice president of the Kerala Sports Council. Meanwhile, the Council has also approached the Government seeking effective arrangements to retain talented sportsmen within Kerala by providing them with suitable jobs. The Council intends to send a team to Delhi to see the Asian Games consisting of Arjuna Award winners belonging to Kerala, sportsmen who won places in the national meets last year and those who attended the Asiad camps but did not make the grade in the final selections. Members of the Sports Council, secretaries of district Sports Councils and one coach from each discipline have also been included to go to the Games. The scheme is under the consideration of the Kerala Government.

Legal games

THE power hungry politicians leading the two rival factions of the Kerala Aquatic Association and both belonging to the ruling front in Kerala have now kicked their ball of controversy to the court of law. The suit was filed by Mr V Sukumar, secretary of the KAA led by Mr P K Velayudhan, MLA (Congress-A) against the rival faction of the association led by Mr P C George, MLA (Kerala Congress-J). Meanwhile, Trivandrum sub Judge P Parameswara Menon has adjourned the hearing of the suit.

Frantic efforts are on for a reconciliation between the rival groups. The first round of talks has failed to produce any settlement. The move for conciliation was taken by Mr P C George, the president of the KAA. However, the second round of talks did not come off as Mr Velayudhan did not turn up.

The Kerala Sports Council, the supreme controlling authority of all sports associations in Kerala is a silent spectator at the hide and seek game played by the two rival factions. It looks as if the rules in its armoury are inadequate to tackle such situations arising out of a split. Unless it is armed with more teeth to tackle such problems, a council worth its name is in vain. The KSC should be converted into a statutory body with legislative sanction so that it could effectively intervene wherever the interests of sportsmen went by default. Then only it can uphold the integrity of sports in the State.

M P SURESH

Spinning the ball clockwise

Edwards Stevens, popularly called "Lumpy," is considered a pioneer in the art of length bowling. Not only that, he was also "dead accurate" and caused many problems to even those batsmen who were quick footed and possessed hawk like eyesight. According to historians, Lumpy's peak year was 1775 when he bowled repeatedly "clean through the chapter house", as it was called then, those "stars of the first magnitude." He "walked through" the stumps and compelled the authorities to introduce the third stump.

Round shouldered and stockily-built, Lumpy was credited to bowl accurately till cows returned home. His run-up was as steady as his length was impeccable. It cannot be ascertained whether he bowled shooters by design, but he did bowl shooters more often than any other bowler could do in those days.

In his time Crowhurst was rated as the fastest under arm bowler. In the words of C. B. Fry, one of the celebrated cricket commentators, Crowhurst was so quick that his captain was obliged to post two long stops behind the wicketkeeper with a view to saving byes. Like against Harold Larwood at his menacing best, many local outfits declined to play against him. Thomas Brett lacked in accuracy but was

said to be yet another bowler as fast as Lumpy.

According to historians, Lamborn initiated the art of spinning the ball clockwise, that is, from off to leg. Known as "the little farmer," he tended his father's sheep, and while so engaged, he bowled for long spells to help him gain accuracy. He played for Hambledon against all-England and his art of bowling baffled Kent and Surrey batsmen so much that they tumbled out in quick succession.

David Harris, a phenomenon bowler in those days, was once presented with a gold-laced hat for his magnificent bowling feats. According to historians, his bowling feat led to the coming of the term 'hat trick', though he was never credited with claiming three wickets off three successive deliveries.

Talking about

hat trick, there is an interesting question on it: how many hat-tricks will be counted if a bowler claims six wickets off six deliveries of the over? Though some may debate, it makes four hat-tricks, that is, 1-2-3, then 2-3-4, then 3-4-5 and then 4-5-6.

Mr G. D. Martineau, a famous cricket historian, says "David Harris did not, as some suppose, invent length bowling since length was already an important factor in the attack before he appeared on the scene, but he combined length, lift and leg spin in such a manner as to complete the process initiated by Lumpy and impose a new technique on batsmanship."

The art of wicketkeeping developed after players started wearing protections. While speed, swerve and accuracy and length

brought in the field specialist wicket keepers, like, Tom Sueter, William Yelden and George Lever, the bowlers in modern age credited with obtaining lift and bounce from the pitch have led to the introduction of thigh guard and helmet, which is also used by those who choose to field at positions called "suicidal area."

One historian writes, "The 18th century wicketkeepers did not try to stop every ball, but would do so if there were some chances of a catch or stumping or if the ball came reasonably within his compass. Awkward ones were generally left to long stop."

Here are some problems:

Q: There is an appeal for a catch. The batsman begins to return thinking that he is out. Can the umpire intervene and inform the batsman that he is not out?

A: The umpire is the custodian of cricket laws. If he is certain that the catch is not in order, he is well within his rights to intervene. The Law 27 (5) says "The umpire shall intervene if satisfied that a batsman, not having been given out, has left his wicket under a misapprehension that he has been dismissed."

Q: While the striker is out of his crease, the batsman's loosely tied strap is touching the ground within the popping crease. The wicketkeeper whips off the balls and appeals for stumping. Can he be given out?

A: No, since strap is part of his person and hence he is deemed to be home.

Q: The striker is given out lbw but the intercepted ball trickles on to disturb the balls. What will be the decision?

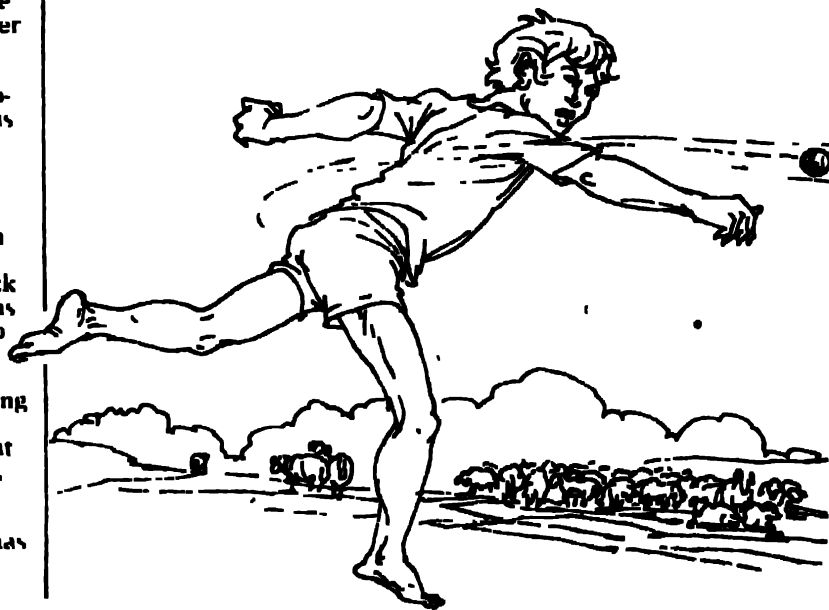
A: The batsman is given out bowled under Law 30.

Q: Can a captain forfeit his team's second innings?

A: Yes, he can provided his decision to do so is notified to the opposing captain and umpires in sufficient time to allow 7 minutes rolling of the pitch, as stipulated in Law 10.

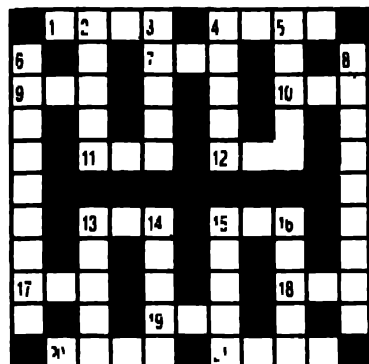
Q: Only nine minutes remain to lunch when the teams are driven indoors because of rain. When will the lunch recess start and when will the game be resumed?

A: Lunch starts immediately but the match will be resumed at the scheduled time.



Crossword

MUDAR



- 1 Tend for a tennis player (4)
- 4 This Singh is a fine Indian golfer (4)
- 7 What a Headley and football manager Greenwood have in common (3)
- 9 Part of the anatomy afflicted when Botham was injured off Nayak (3)
- 10 Number of triple centuries hit by Bradman in Tests (3)
- 11 A heavy indication for a century mark (3)
- 12 This Khan is one of the top brass in Pakistani sport (2)
- 13 The supervisor of a football game called informally (3)
- 15 One of the cricketing Gregorys of Australia but not Jack (3)
- 17 This tennis stroke has a circle in between (3)
- 18 Initials of the woman tennis player who also wears spectacles (1 1 1)
- 19 Initials again this time of former Indian Captain Contractor (1 1 1)
- 20 The first name of Ratnapol Thai-land sprinter who was once the fastest man in Asia (4)
- 21 What a female spectator did to Brijesh Patel against the West Indians at Wankhede Stadium when he was batting (4)

DOWN

- 2 Little Miss Icicle better known as? (5)
- 3 To coach has a meaning synonymous with a railway engine (5)
- 4 Warwickshire cricketer Ferreira's first name ends with a century (5)
- 5 This Lord, who was very intimately associated with horse racing in England (5)
- 6 Scandinavian venue for the Olympics once (9)
- 8 A Czech table tennis player ends with a Swiss sport (1 8)
- 13 A bird for the first name of a Surrey and England bowler (5)
- 14 Rachael Heyhoe, more commonly known as? (5)
- 15 Laxity for a powerful Middlesex batsman (5)
- 16 Eddie of the tennis circuit (5)

Excellent 24-22, Good 21-19, Fair 18-16

Koustava Guha, Calcutta

Q How many runs and centuries have Gavaskar and Vishwanath made in Tests so far?

A Gavaskar has made 6,792 runs in 78 Tests and Vishwanath 5,935 runs in 84 Tests, at the end of the three Test series versus England in England in 1982

Bultu and Samita, Jamshedpur

Q What is the date of birth of Ravi Shastri? What is his batting and bowling record in Tests?

A Shastri was born on 27 May 1962. He has played in 12 Tests, 16 innings (thrice unbeaten) and scored 281 runs with two fifties, two zeroes and 93 being his highest score. As a bowler he has captured 31 wickets conceding 1,014 runs.

What does 'J' stand for in the name of R J Shastri?

A Jayadrith - his father's name

B Manoharpatnaik, Vishakhapatnam

Q Has Gopal Bose played in Tests for India?

A No, not so far

Debashis Gupta Bakshi, Jalpaiguri

Q What is the Test batting and wicket-keeping record of Farokh Engineer?

A He has played 46 Tests, 87 innings, three times not out, 2611 runs, 121 as his highest score, 31.08 average, two centuries, 16 fifties, seven zeroes and 66 catches behind the stumps with 16 stumpings.

Subrata Pratim Sinha Patra

Q What was the average of Sunil Gavaskar in the series against the West Indies in India in 1978-79?

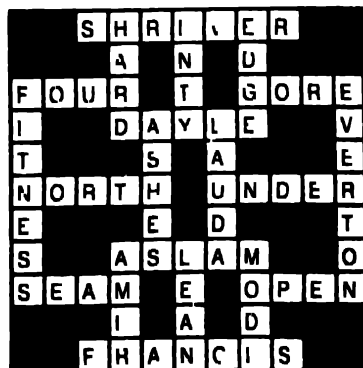
A 91.50

Kanishka Chowdhury, Bombay

Q What is Imran Khan's Test bowling record?

A Before embarking on the tour of England in 1982 as a captain, Imran Khan had bowled 9529 balls, 311 maiden overs, conceded 4,197 runs and captured 158 wickets at the average of 26.56 with five or more wickets in an innings on 10 occasions and ten or more wickets in a match twice.

SOLUTION 163



Rajan Chopra, New Delhi

Q Who took Gavaskar's wicket in both the innings on his debut?

A Sunil Gavaskar on his debut against West Indies at Port-of-Spain in 1970-71, was caught by Clive Lloyd off J Noreiga in the first innings for 65 and was unbeaten with 67 in the second.

R Venkatraman, New Delhi

Q Which is the first wicket India claimed in her official Test?

A Percy Holmes of England in the only Test against England at Lord's in 1932. Mohammed Nissar had the honour to capture this wicket.

Rajan Chopra, New Delhi

Q What is the Test bowling record of John Snow of England?

A His record is 12021 balls, 411 maiden overs, 5387 runs, 202 wickets, 26.66 average, with eight times five or more wickets in an innings, ten or more wickets in a match once with seven for 40 as the best bowling figures in 49 Tests.

Rajesh Khanna, Calcutta

Q What is the batting record of England's C B Fry?

A He played 26 Tests, 41 innings, three times not out, 1223 runs, 144 as his highest score, 32.18 average, two hundreds, seven fifties and three zeroes.

Edward Kabir, Kurseong

Q Who has scored the maximum runs in a Test series?

A D G Bradman of Australia, who aggregated 974 in a five-Test series against England in England in 1930.

Q What is Ambar Roy's Test record?

A Four Tests, seven innings, 91 runs, 48 as highest score, 13.00 average with two ducks.

Quiz

Rajit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Say which of the following statements are correct.

- 1 In handball the penalty line indicates the spot from which penalty kicks are taken.
- 2 In basketball a defensive rebound means a rebound made by defenders.
- 3 Swimsuits must be one-piece.
- 4 In badminton killing means winning rally with smash.
- 5 The first item of men's decathlon is long jump.
- 6 In gymnastics straddle means balancing on one leg.
- 7 Gumshield is the guard for teeth worn by boxers in mouth.
- 8 Game clock is the other name for the 30 second clock in basketball.
- 9 Trapping in hockey means deceiving an opponent.
- 10 In cyclo-cross only the race leader is entitled to put on the yellow jersey.

ANSWERS

Only (3), (4), (7) and (10) are correct.

Miss M Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar
Q Has Wasim Bari ever captained Pakistan? If so, when and against which team? Please give his captaincy record.
A Out of the six Tests captained by Wasim Bari against England, he lost two Tests the remaining four Tests being drawn. He won the toss four times.
Miss R V Chaudhary, Bombay
Q Who has played the maximum number of Test matches?
A Colin Cowdrey of England, who represented his country in 114 Tests.
Binaya Bhushan Sahu, Berhampur
Q What is the address of the Hindi commentator Sushil Doshi?
A 132 Jaora Compound Indore 452 001

Ryan Chand Selwani, Bhopal.
Q Who is the top scorer when New Zealand were all out for 26 against England in 1954-55?
A Opener Bert Sutcliffe was the top scorer with 11 runs in his side's total of 26.
M. Muridhar, Cuttack.
Q Which Indian batsman holds the record for scoring the maximum number of runs in a six-ball over in Tests?
A Sandeep Patil has hit a maximum of 24 runs in the six-ball over from England's captain Bob Willis in the Manchester Test in 1982.
Dinesh Karna, Delhi.
Q Is a batsman out if a ball coming in from outside the leg stump hits him on the pads when he is in front of the

stumps?
A No, not out.
Arvind Korseonkar, Vasco
Q Which fast bowler has taken the highest number of wickets in Tests?
A Dennis Lillee of Australia has captured the highest number of wickets in Tests—328 wickets in 63 Tests.
Devi Prasad Sur, Calcutta
Q If the two captains agree to call play to an end in the dying moments on the final day of the match, which is heading for a dull draw, are the umpires bound to abide by the captain's appeal?
A In Test matches, much depends on what is agreed in the playing conditions. In first-class matches in India, the umpires have to make the captains play till the scheduled time for close of play is

Bridge

Mr. Schapiro

Last week I referred to an irritating and recurrent problem. Your partner opens 1 NT and your right-hand opponent overcalls in a suit. Normally, you double if you have their suit and reasonable values and bid a suit of your own if you don't fancy defending. But suppose that you have only two cards in the opponent's suit and only four card suits of your own? A convention called Lebensohl seems to solve a number of problems, especially at pairs scoring. After intervention, a double shows the values for 2 NT and at least a doubleton in the opponent's suit. Then partner can pass if he has strength in their department. In contrast, a bid of 2 NT demands that partner bid three-clubs, which you either pass or convert to three of your own suit—and this is a merely competitive gesture. However, a new suit over the intervention is forcing. The convention worked out well on this deal:

♠ 4 2			
♥ A 8 5 2			
♦ Q J 6			
♣ K J 7 3			
♠ K J 1 9 6 5			
♥ J 4			
♦ A K 2			
♣ .0 4			
	N		7
	W	E	♥ Q 10 9 6
			♦ 9 4 3
			♣ Q 8 6 4 2
			♠ A Q 9 3
			♥ K 7 3
			♦ 10 8 7 5
			♣ A 5

This was the bidding with East-West vulnerable:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	2 ♣	double	pass
pass	pass		

Following the system, North doubled the intervention and South had no difficulty in finding a pass. North got off to the best lead of ♦ Q and it was straightforward for the defence to collect a diamond, two hearts, two clubs and three trump tricks for a penalty of 800 points—far better than a doubtful game.

At the other table, after the same start, North who was not playing Lebensohl raised to 2 NT. South might have pushed on but he didn't. It was just as well, for he had only seven tricks after the good lead of ♠ 10. He was able to organise an eighth trick with the aid of an end-play but

that was exactly his contract and only 120 points—poor compensation for what his team-mates had lost.

The convention doesn't always work out but it seems to show a profit on balance. Some players invert things—they play so that a new suit after intervention is non-forcing, while the manoeuvres following three-clubs are game forcing. You pay your money.

Last week's quiz. At love all you hold as South ♠ 7 3 2, ♥ none, ♦ 6 2, ♣ A K 10 9 8 6 3 2. West opened one heart. North overcalled with 1 NT and East raised to two-hearts. At pairs scoring a raise to 3 NT is probably best—at teams the optimists bid six-clubs but I think that I would go for the middle-of-the-road solution with a bid of five-clubs. I could be wrong (I was in practice!) but I would make the same bid again if put to the test.

This week's quiz. Vulnerable against not as South you hold ♠ K 4, ♥ A K 9 7 4, ♦ 7 5, ♣ K 8 7 6. East deals and opens one-spade, you overcall with two-hearts (not everybody's choice) and your partner bids two-spades. Now East puts the cat among the pigeons with a bid of four spades. What action do you take?

Chess

Peter Clarke

All players at some time or other—the weaker they are the more often it happens—fail to make the most of their chances because they do not find the right plan and cannot exploit an advantage. *Bent Larsen's Good Move Guide* (reviewed here on April 4) offers some useful guidance in this direction. The Danish grandmaster stresses that you should trust in the logic of the game, as formulated primarily by Steinitz, the first World Champion in brief, this requires that attack should overcome defence only if the attacker starts with a definite superiority. A position from the practice of Steinitz is included among the examples in the section of the book on planning, and I now give the complete game.

White: Wilhelm Steinitz; Black: Jackson Showalter.
 French Defence (Vienna, 1898)

1 P—d4, P—d5; 2 P—d4, P—e6
 3 P—e5, P—e5; 4 P—P, e—e5

5 R—K3, B—P; 6 B—B3, K—K2
 7 Q—Q, R—K3; 8 R—K1, B—B2
 9 P—B3, P—B4

This unnecessarily weakens Qh4. 9 B—K3 intending at once to threaten the white KP by B—B2 should yield Black a satisfactory game.

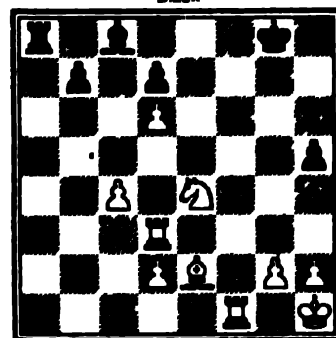
10 P—B4, Q—K1; 11 Q—K2, B—K3
 12 R—K3, Q—Q; 13 R—Q3, R—K2
 14 B—K3, B—P; 15 Q—B, R—K2
 16 P—R, P—K3; 17 R—B4, P—B4
 18 P—K4, R—K2; 19 Q—B2, Q—Q1
 20 R—K3, P—K3; 21 R—K3, R—B2
 22 K—B1, K—K2; 23 R—B3, P—B3
 24 R—K3, P—B4; 25 Q—K3, Q—K1
 26 R—K3, R—B1; 27 Q—R4, R—K1

We have reached the position examined by Larsen. He points out that the direct 28 P—K4 ought to win, but he states that it is not altogether logical to open things up for the beleaguered black pieces. Why give a man a chance when he is lying down already? Steinitz switches his threats to the centre and Black is too cramped to resist.

28 P—B4, P—P; 29 B—B3, R—K1
 30 R—B3, R—B2; 31 R—B6, R—K2
 32 R(K1)—Q1, B—B1; 33 R—Pch, B—K2
 34 B—B, Q—K2; 35 R—B7ch, R—K2
 36 R—Kch, R—K; 37 Q—Bch, K—K3
 38 R—B6, R—B2; 39 P—K3, Resigns

Competition 8538. Solution next week.

Black



White

White to play and win. Grade 2 (easy)

Solution to 8538 (Banks—Rajir, Moscow, 1898)
 (R2/4R1h/3p2pp/RqB/1P1p/3P2P1/3BPP1P/QR1—Black to play)

The Czech master saved himself by 31 R—P, 32 K—R, Q—Rch, 33 K—B3, Q—Rch, and a draw was agreed. White must allow a reprieve after 34 K—B2, since both 34 K—B4, Q—K8ch and 34 K—K4, Q—Rch lead to mate.

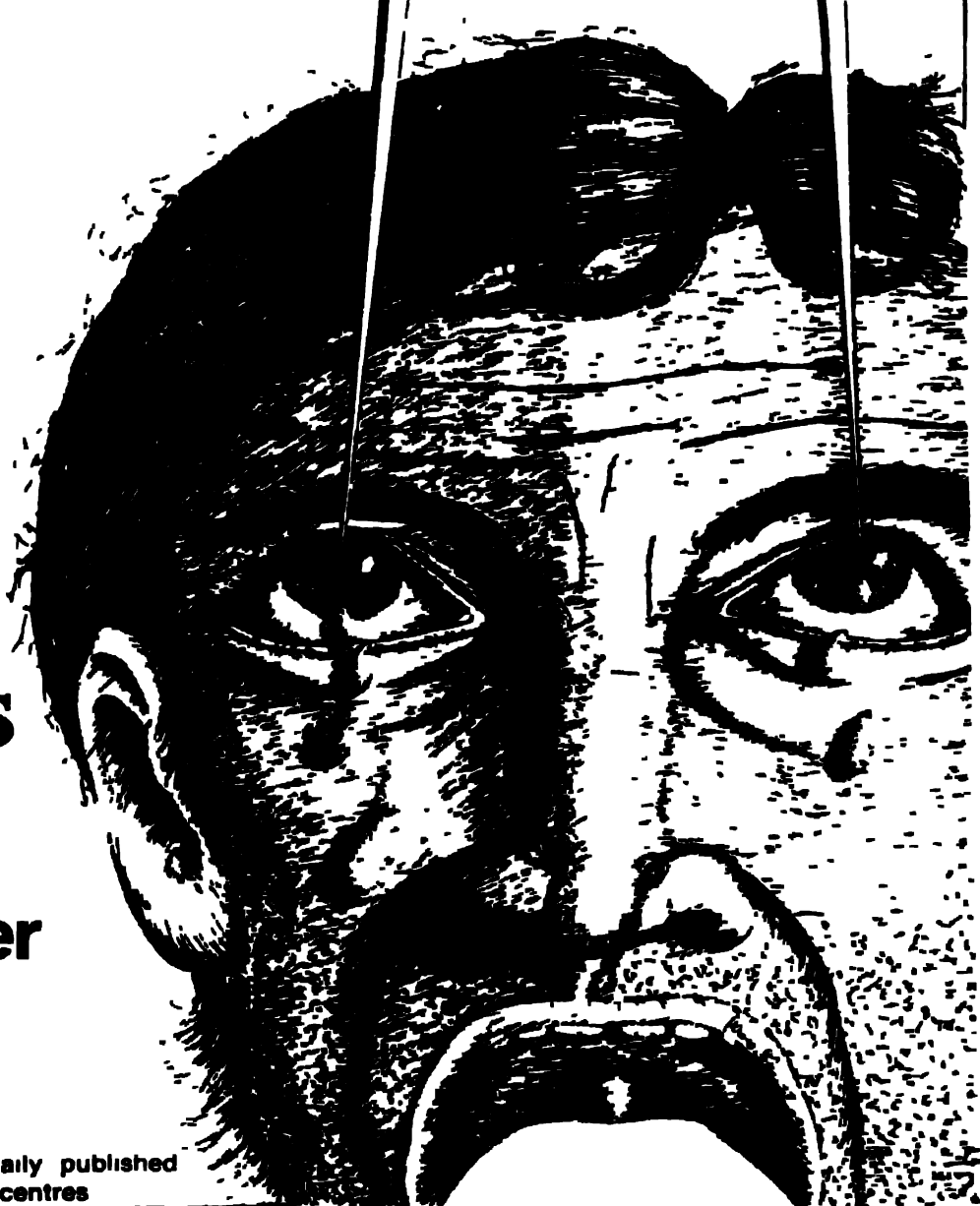
Problem No 1202, Solution next week.
 V. B. Petrosian (Special Prize, De Waarheid 1967)
 (R2/4R1h/3p2pp/RqB/1P1p/3P2P1/3BPP1P/QR1—White to play and mate in two moves)

Solution to No 1201 (Anderson)
 (R2/4R1h/3p2pp/RqB/1P1p/3P2P1/3BPP1P/QR1—White to play and mate in two moves)
 1 K—Q5 (threat 2 Q—K7) (a) 1 K—K5;
 2 K—P; (b) 1 K—K3, 2 B—B2, (c) 1 R—K3ch, 2 B—K5, (d) 1 R—Q5ch 2 B—Q5

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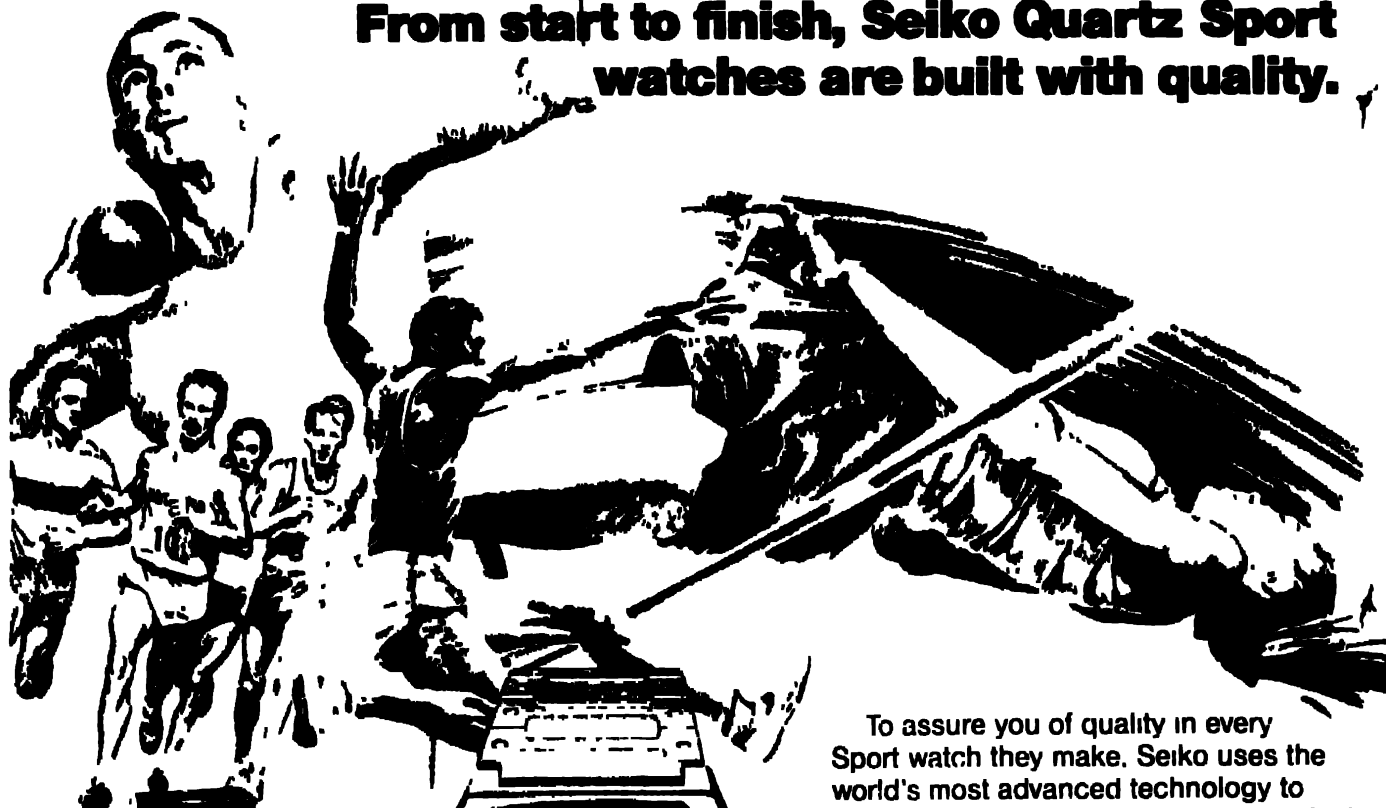
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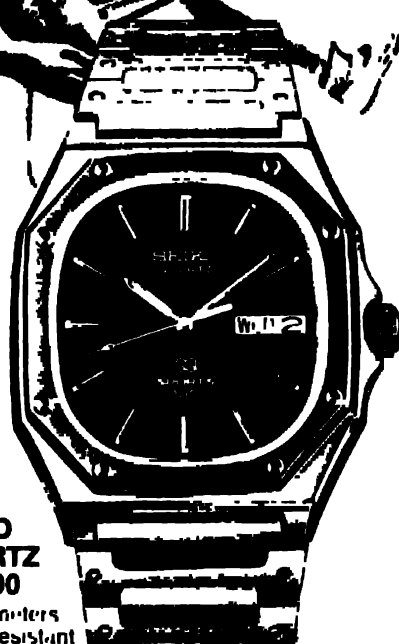
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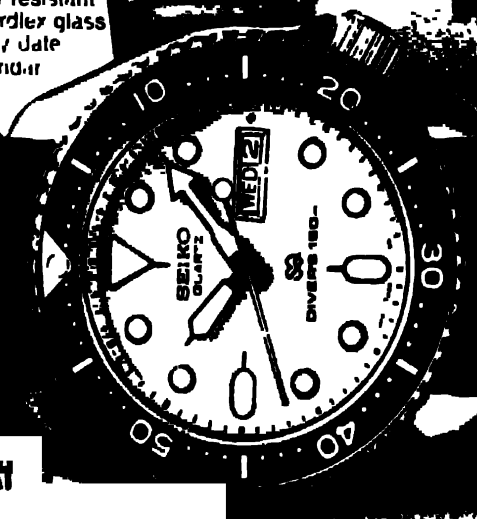
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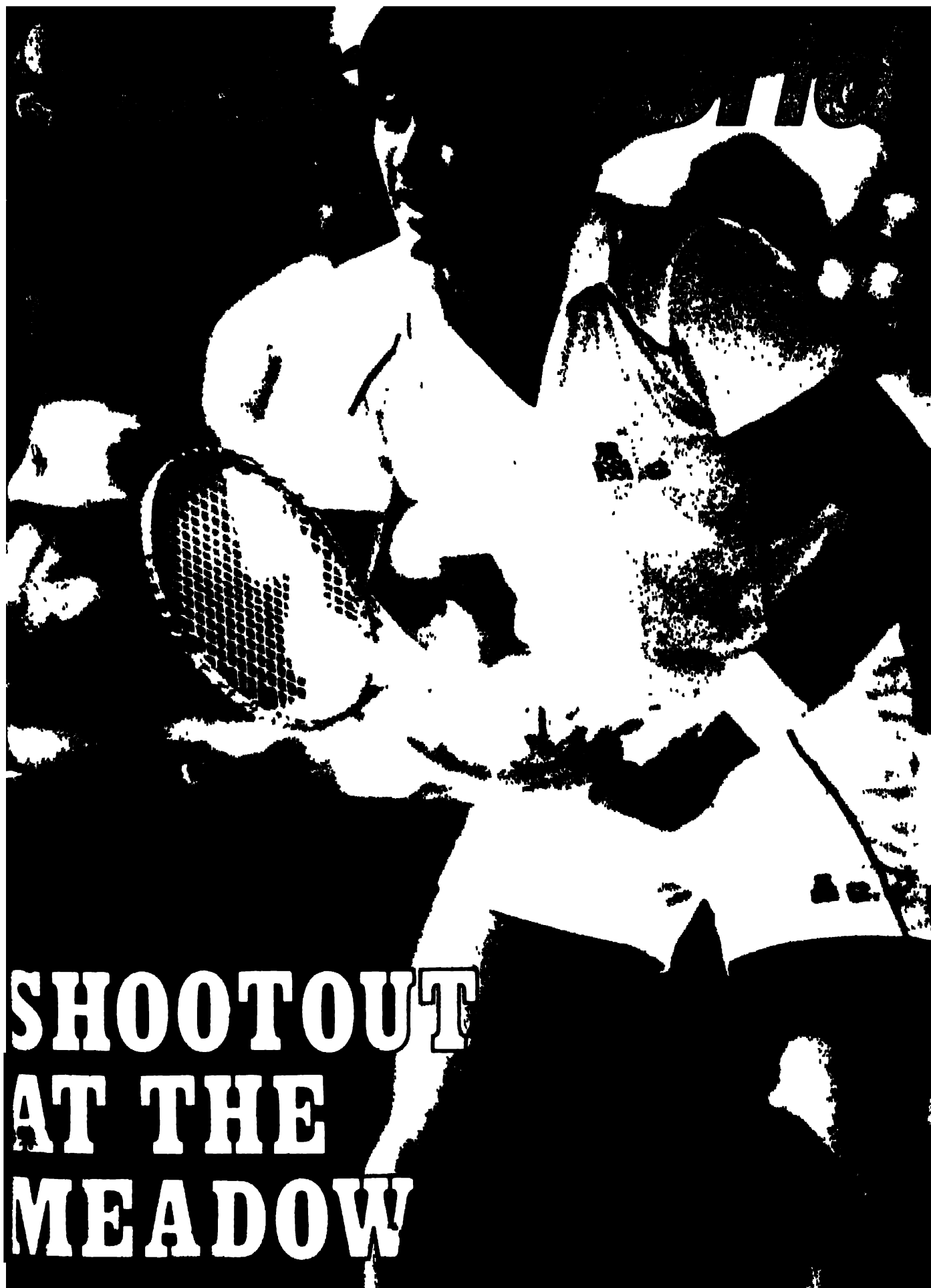
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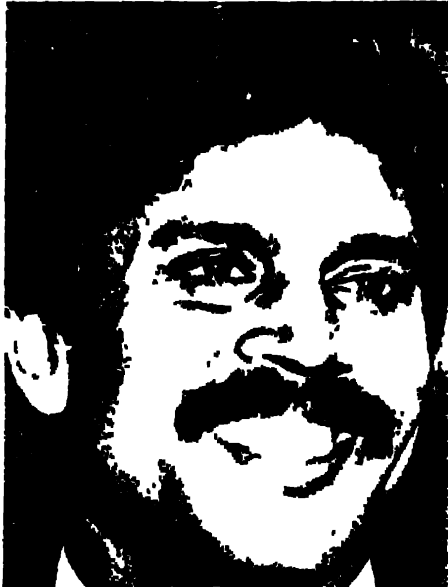


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8 HOW LONG CAN I CONTINUE ALONE?

Indian chess received a boost when Dibyendu Barua defeated Victor Korchnoi in London recently SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL interviewed the brilliant youngster on his return to Calcutta



12 SHOOTOUT AT THE MEADOW

The U.S. Open this year saw Chris Evert-Lloyd regain her singles crown even as Martina's dream of a Grand Slam chance was destroyed. But more important Connors was back at the Number One spot. GEORGE K. GEORGE reports from Flushing Meadow

24 ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

India began in right earnest for the Test against Sri Lanka when they played the visitors in a one-day game at Amritsar. The islanders also played at Delhi against the Indian side and also against the Ranji champions



SPECIAL FEATURES

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Cover transparency of Jimmy Connors by AP

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Letters to the Editor

Errors not restricted!

IN his letter in the *Sportsworld* of 25 August, Suranjan Roy has pointed out certain errors in his book 'Asian Games: A complete book of records'. However, such errors are not only restricted to Indian books. Recently, while comparing the Olympic records in two books—*The Guinness Book of Olympic Records* (1980 edition) and *The History of the Olympics* (edited by Martin Tyler and Phil Scott). There are a lot of instances where the two prestigious publications do not agree.

For the 1000 metres sprint cycling, the *Guinness Book* states that no event was held in 1900. However, the other book gives complete results showing G. Taillandier of France as the winner with a timing of two minutes and 16.0 seconds.

In the equestrian division, the *Guinness Book* states that in 1900, Haegeman of Belgium won the gold in the Grand Prix (Jumping). It further states that in 1900 the Grand Prix event (Dressage) was not held. *The History of the Olympics* shows Haegeman as the winner of that event for 1900 while going to state that the Grand Prix (Jumping) was not held that year.

While referring to fencing, the *Guinness Book* states that Cuba won it in 1904 while the *History of the Olympics* clearly lays down that the event was not held in that year! Even the case of the Free Pistol Shooting (50 metres) the discrepancy appears. In the *Guinness Book* the winners for the years 1896, 1900, 1912 and 1920 are listed. *The History of the Olympics* states that the event was not held until 1904. Even in the Small Bore Rifle position the *History of the Olympics* has listed the winners for

1900, 1908, 1912 and 1920. Somehow, the *Guinness Book* states that the event was not held until 1924! The Olympic Trap Shooting event for 1900 is, according to the *Guinness Book*, Roger de Baibarini of France. However, the *History of the Olympics* puts the winner as W. Ewing of Canada. Even in the freestyle heavyweight wrestling the *History of the Olympics* states the winner to be K. Schumann of Germany in 1896. According to the other book this event in 1896 was not held at all!

For the Greco-Roman light heavyweight wrestling, in 1912 the *Guinness Book* states that no gold medal was awarded and the silver went to two wrestlers—A. Ahlgren of Sweden and I. Bohling of Finland. *The History of the Olympics* asserts that both the wrestlers got gold medals!

For the Greco-Roman heavyweight wrestling the *History* states that the event was not held in 1896 while the *Guinness Book* supplies the complete results. More dissimilarities are not difficult to find. For the men's high jump in 1896 the *Guinness Book* states that there was a tie for the second place between James Connolly and Robert Garrett, both recording 5'7". According to the *History* Connolly won the silver with a jump of 5'7", while Garrett with 5'7" got the bronze.

There are many other instances that I have come across where the two publications disagree. I wonder which figures are the correct ones. Would a third party—hopefully the one with the figures in order—enlighten the readers?

JAIMIN M. BHATT,
Bombay

Why neglected?

A CRICKET tour programme recently published, has given India's commitments for the next nine years. But it is surprising to note that out of the 15 series that India

Pulled muscle?



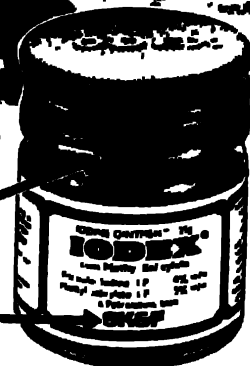
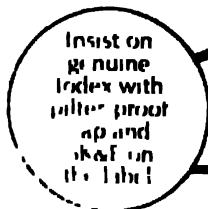
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will be playing only one has been arranged against New Zealand. And the gross negligence can be easily gauged when you find that four have been arranged against the West Indies, three each against England and Pakistan, and two each against Australia and Sri Lanka. Does the Board fear the might of the Kiwis? I am indeed very sorry to learn of their attitude.

KIRTI AZAD,
New Delhi

Indians were absent, why on earth did the organisers try to lure the people to see the tourney? It is shameful and tragic to waste so much foreign exchange on ordinary 'phoren' players, so very important to our organisers and not the quality, which is a must in such tournaments.

RAHUL CHANDA-WARKAR,
Pune

Not aware

SOME time back a reader had written that Ian Botham should have got the Man of the Series award and not Kapil Dev. Perhaps, he is not aware of the statement given by Jim Laker, the adjudicator of the award. Moreover, I would like to quote Jack Fingleton, who once said, "Statistics, not definitive, can be most misleading."

VALEED AHMAD,
Mau-Aima

Interesting

YOUR issue of 25 August carried an interesting article on Botham's captaincy question. Either the Somerset and England all rounder sparks off high praise or equally high criticism. It is remarkable to find the amount of material already written on this young cricketer. Few younger people have broken as many records in cricket, and his abilities on the field is at times as unpredictable as they are unbelievable.

Even then I believe that as a captain he was dismally poor and I never cease to be surprised as to how vehemently writers have attacked this sole phase of his abilities. More often than not it has been unwarranted and unfair. Many writers, I feel, have taken that as an opportunity to empty their animosity towards Botham on paper.

However, to a great extent, I feel that the captaincy had smothered his talents. It is bad enough for Botham to worry about saving a match, winning or drawing it. Granted that he could make a good captain but his talents as a cricketer are more pre-

The best of Pakistan

WITH all respect to John Arlott I strongly differ with him on two points in his article on the best team of Pakistan down the years in the issue of 18 August. Firstly, I would like to include both Saeed Ahmed and Javed Miandad, the former for his artistic strokeplay and the latter for his already proved indispensability in any Pakistani side in preference to Mushtaq Mohammed, whose ability as a top class all rounder I do not deny (Saeed Ahmed was also a useful leg spinner). Secondly, my firm conviction is that a wicket keeper should primarily be selected on the basis of his merits behind the stumps and as such, I would prefer Wasim Bari to Imtiaz Ahmed though the latter is easily the best batsman wicket-keeper produced by Pakistan so far. So I feel that the team should be amended to Hanif Mohammed (captain), Majid Khan, Zaheer Abbas, Saeed Ahmed, Javed Miandad, Asif Iqbal, Inzam Khan, In-rikkah Alam, Fazal Mahmood, Wasim Bari (wk), Sarfraz Nawaz and Mushtaq Mohammed (twelfth man).

SAMIR SEN,
Durgapur

Rightly lashed

IN your 1 September issue Hareesh Munwani, your Bombay correspondent, has rightly lashed the Indian Masters that were held at Hyderabad some time back. In spite of knowing that the Chinese, the Danes and the top In-

cious to England than his abilities as a captain. He is unquestionably unique and for this very reason I feel that everyday problems should not be thrust on him. And even if England do not take back Ian Botham as captain he should not treat it as an insult but as a compliment. After all, they have openly confirmed that he is special—and indispensable.

SRIHARI IYENGAR,
Bangalore

Arbitrariness

LET me bring to your notice the arbitrariness of the AIR Sports Bulletins. Nowadays they are relayed in durations of five minutes each on two occasions, once in Hindi and the other in English. But still, some sports news are also covered in the 8.45 and 9 p.m. broadcasts.

It has also been noticed that the North India matches in the Ranji Trophy are included but scores of the teams of the other parts of the country are ignored. Sometimes news of the results of the prize money tournaments are also splashed. The necessity of including such an item in a news bulletin of a national ranking cannot be easily understood. I feel that the results of the Ranji, Duleep and the Deodhar Trophies should be given greater coverage. The facts of the regional tournaments should also be stepped up for public notice.

Y S JOGAI ENU,
Gwalior

Congrats, kid!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Indian chess maestro Dibyendu Barua for being awarded the International Norm for the second year in succession, defeating the world number two Victor Korchnoi and giving a stupendous performance in London. It was once again sorry to note that Barua had financial difficulties. My question is that if the Indian Government can spend so much money on the cricketers and third rate footballers why can they not extend help to this bright young prospect.

What a pity it is to see Jatin Chakraborty and the footballers enjoying the Olympics and Sailen Manna witnessing the World Cup when Dibyendu is finding it so hard in making a trip to England.

In the future, will the readers and chess lovers come forward to help Dibyendu and show that the so-called government help is not needed at all?

PRABAL GUHA,
Calcutta

Vaidya is correct

YOUR issue of 11 August carried a clarification by you saying that Lala Amarnath holds the record for the fastest century for India. But on page 210 of *India-England Cricket Visits* edited by S K Roy, Lala Amarnath's innings is stated to span for 210 minutes. My clippings from the *Times of India*, dated 20 March, 1965, reads 'Sardesai had 18 fours in an innings that lasted 140 minutes'.

From my other sources of records, I have found out that Sardesai in his innings of 106 in the fourth Test against New Zealand at Delhi in 1964-65 completed his hundredth run in 127 minutes.

Hence, I feel that I am correct in saying that Sardesai holds the Indian record for scoring the fastest century.

SUDHIR VAIDYA,
Thana

(We respect your view but our information was taken from an article by James Gibb in the *Wisden Cricket Monthly* of February 1980. Amarnath reached his century in 117 minutes while his entire innings of 118 took him 185 minutes. There it has been clearly acknowledged that after Amarnath's innings the fastest is to the name of Sardesai.)

Final say

I HOPE that magician P. C. Sorcar, asked to perform at the Asian Games doesn't produce more rabbits than gold for India!

CAROLINE GILLESPIE,
Walsair.

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My most memorable moments

JAIDIP MUKERJEA

It was a pleasure meeting the ex-tennis star. Grey hairs have slowly found their way into an otherwise black mop, but Jaidip Mukerjea is still sprightly at forty. As he sat and reminisced in his drawing room at Lord Sinha Road in the company of his father and his three beautiful daughters, Shalini, Malini and Anisa, one had to conclude that this man was still very much in love with tennis. Mukerjea is a dealer for TISCO and "I also do a little buying and selling of chests of tea."

At the same time Jaidip is still very closely associated with the game. He conducts an annual Coaching Camp, which over the years has been sponsored by different firms and attracts many promising youngsters of Calcutta. Jaidip also helps out with the coaching camps held throughout the year at the South Club and goes abroad regularly on similar assignments. His most recent trips abroad have been to Malaysia and Switzerland. However, Mukerjea does not hold any degree in coaching and it was probably for this reason that he was not selected to help in the preparation of the tennis team for the Asian Cup. "They should have given preference to ex-national players and at least for us, we don't bother about degrees," he says. "I have seen NIS in Patiala offering my services, but there was no reply." Jaidip is a very outspoken person and does not pull his punches--or shots should we say--and that is what's made him the great tennis player that he is.

I WAS born on April 21, 1942 and did not take to tennis till I was twelve. As a youngster I was always interested in rugby and could play regularly at school in Calcutta. Then in 1954 I broke my collar bone playing football and was left with no other hobby but to play tennis during the summer holidays. I was very disappointed that I could not play in my school and in the end had to join the Brij Kumar Arora Kaur coaching camp at the South Club. This was my first experience of playing tennis and I soon took to the game. Between 1954 and 1959 I played in a number of Junior

and Senior tournaments and was delighted to go to Wimbledon to play in the men's and the junior events. After making it to the semi-final of the juniors I sprained my ankle and had to give a walk-over. It was really disappointing to have to concede a walk-over after having come so far and I was determined to make another all out bid the following year. I was overjoyed when I reached the final in 1960, but went down to Rodney Mandelstam.

It was in the same year, that I made my Davis Cup debut. It was a fairly tale debut, which was played at Bangkok against Thailand. Our captain Ramanathan Krishnan was down with chicken pox and Naresh Kumar had to lead the team. I was chosen to play. I was lucky and thrilled that I opened the tie and thus given the opportunity to play in a live rubber. I won my first Davis Cup match and we went on to win the tie. This was the start of my long association with this premier tennis team event and now I am proud to be have played the maximum number of tennis matches in the Davis Cup by an Indian. I did not know this till only a few years ago when I was informed by a friend that the 42 matches played by me were the highest an Indian has ever played. It is really wonderful to know that one has done a great job for one's country, and to have played more Davis Cup matches than the legendary Krishnan.

I started teaming up with Premjit Lal since I was about fifteen or sixteen. We have played some great matches together and I thoroughly relish the relationship we developed on the tennis court. We are also very good friends and it was always great fun playing with Prem.

1966 was a particularly good year for me, and must rank as one of my most memorable years in tennis. I put it across Ramanathan Krishnan in the Nationals and also at the Asians. I played the best match of my career at Delhi in the inter-Zone Davis Cup final against West Germany. We were leading by two matches to one when I went out to play W. Bungart, a Wimbledon semi-finalist that year. It was very

important that I won and I really played good tennis to beat the German 8-6 in the fourth set to clinch the match and the tie. I, as well as the other members of the team were thrilled when we came from behind to put it across Brazil and enter the final against Australia. The Aussies were, undoubtedly, a formidable side and Krishnan and I combined to play John Newcombe and Tony Roche. This was one of the best games of doubles I have ever played and we upset one of the most formidable doubles pair in the history of tennis. The match was played in Australia, but one always got the impression that one was playing at home. After our victory we were given a standing ovation and you cannot imagine the super feeling it is.

I've had some very memorable moments playing tennis and it is really difficult to single out just one or two particular instances. But surely very high up on the charts must be the occasion when I was awarded the Arjuna in 1967. I was given Third Class fare to go to Delhi to receive the award and was sanctioned an eight rupee allowance while in the capital. But it was worth all the trouble. The 'Arjuna' is still here (pointing to the award which is kept in his drawing room) but unfortunately the bow is broken.

All my victories at any level of the game are dear to me. I've won the Asians three times, in 1969, 1970 and again in 1972 and the Nationals in 1970. I relish my performance at Wimbledon. Premjit and I reached the doubles quarter finals there. Other memorable moments of mine are when for four years--1963, 1964, 1966 and 1972--I made it to the last sixteen of the men's singles at the Mecca of tennis.

Till 1970 I was, what they would call, a registered player, after which I turned professional. I knew I was all but over the top in 1975 and I joined an American side to play World Team Tennis. It was called the Baltimore Banners and I had the pleasure of playing with Jimmy Connors and people. It has been a long journey with the racquet in my hand and I have no regrets. It was a great fun!

As told to DEREK O'BRIEN

ASIAD VENUES

A glittering monument

THERE can be little doubt that Appu will have the most memorable moments of his life at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main arena for the ninth Asian Games. The speed and style in which the project has taken shape is a tribute to indigenous talent—engineers, architects, masons, brick layers and thousands of other workers, both skilled and unskilled. The stadium, named after the country's first Prime Minister who at the first Asian Games in New Delhi 31 years ago, gave Indian sport the immortal slogan 'Play the game in the spirit of the game,' provides accommodation for 75,000 in two tiers.

Entry to the tiers is designed in such a way as to avoid intermingling of spectators going to separate tiers. The entire stadium can be vacated in less than ten minutes. Eight ramps have been provided around the outer periphery which enable the public to reach the upper concourse.

The main stadium will hold the opening and closing ceremonies, the mandatory track and field events and the foot-

ball semi-finals and final. For the prestigious athletics events and eight lane Olympiense synthetic track has been laid around a natural grass soccer pitch by Messrs En Routeas of the United Kingdom who have given a five year guarantee for their product which they have sold for £3,69,395.

A special room atop the stadium is provided for the expert manning of photo-finish cameras.

A 20 metre Matrix type scoreboard will be positioned on the north stand. The score board will exhibit results in Hindi and English. Black and white pictures can also be flashed. All the results will be shown on the score-board through a computer-controlled microprocessor. For the first time, Hindi characters have been specially evolved for this purpose. The south stand will have a smaller auxiliary scoreboard. The results of the events at all the other venues will be flashed

immediately on the giant score board by using a computer terminal installed in the stadium having a wireless link with the giant computer of the Electronics Commission. All this is a lesson taken out from the book of the organisers of the Moscow Olympics with improvements thrown in for good measure. The same Hungarian firm of Electronipex, which installed the scoreboard at Moscow in 1980, has been given the job at Lodhi Road.

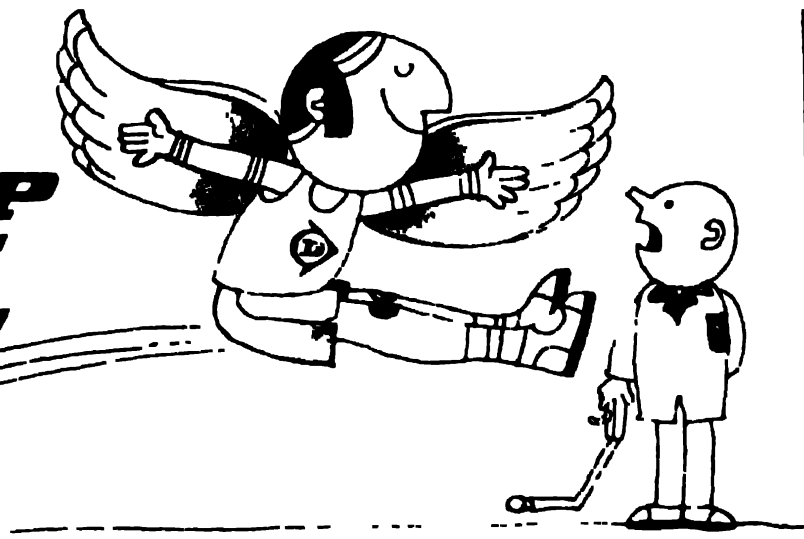
The stadium is floodlit for the events staged at night.

The Nehru Stadium has a modern medical unit, change rooms, lockers, massage rooms, cafeteria, dining facilities and a four lane synthetic warm up track connected to the main arena by subway. The sacred flame will burn throughout the Games in the specially designed structure located in the east stand. Overseas communication services will provide facilities for international trunk calls.

A five metre wide sunken walkway has been provided around the arena to facilitate the movement of games officials, accredited cameramen and their equipment. A specially designed audio-communication system has also been provided for.

The Stadium builders with long experience of the capital's traffic and space problems, have provided ample space for parking facilities for 2,700 cars, 3,000 scooters, 200 taxis, 400 auto rickshaws and 52 buses meant for the participating athletes. All this in the midst of an area with trees and exotic plants of a vast variety. The Jawaharlal Stadium will be another glittering monument outshining the many others already dotting the capital. By the time it is given a completion certificate it will have consumed 150 lakh bricks, 21,000 tonnes of cement, 6,700 tonnes of steel bars, 1,000 tonnes of structural steel and 4,500 kilowatts of power, all at a cost of Rs 17 crores.

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How long can I go on alone?

In an exclusive interview with SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL the young chess genius of India DIBYENDU BARUA, who has created a sensation by defeating the ex-world champion Victor Korchnoi at the recently-concluded Lloyds Bank chess tournament at London, describes the difficulties he has to face to keep his ambition alive and prepare himself for meeting the challenge of international competitions

SPORTSWORLD When did you start preparing for the Lloyds Bank tournament?

DIBYENDU BARUA Well, preparing for these big tournaments is always a big problem for me. When invitations come from the organisers of such international meet, I always find myself in a state of uncertainty—whether I can ultimately take part or not—mainly because of financial problems.

Thus I was not in a very relaxed frame of mind. And as far as the game of chess is concerned, you cannot afford to be in such a situation for long. It is bound to tell on one's game considerably. But then, it cannot be helped because this uncertainty has become the order of the

day I received the invitation to the tournament nearly two months ago, but it was not until the day I boarded the plane for London at Delhi Airport that I knew I was actually going.

SW What were the financial problems that stood in your way?

DB It is entirely up to the All India Chess Federation to make arrangements for the foreign exchange and also for the passage money. All that we can do is to let them know about the invitation and then wait for the final decision from them.

Now, the main problem with the Lloyds Bank tournament was that it was not included in the budget set aside by the Central Government for sending young and promising chess

players abroad. Naturally, there was some reluctance on their part as well as some difficulties in sanctioning my trip to England. I had virtually given up hope of participating in the tournament.

That was not all. I was also haunted by the memory of missing the British Championship because of identical financial problems. Had I participated in that tournament and been able to win one norm, I could have obtained today the International Master ranking (Barua obtained one norm at the Lloyds tournament, but is still one norm short).

Had I gone for the British Championship, which began in early August, it would have meant spending one full month at London if I wanted to stay on and participate in the



Dibyendu with T. Parameswaran (extreme left) and Praveen Thipsay

Lloyds Bank competition also That was something I just could not afford

Thipsay, however, elected to do just that, but he had to pay a heavy price for it When my father and I met him at London, he recounted the story of how he had suffered He was on the brink of starvation Actually, I had been very disappointed about not being able to take part in the British Championship It was my father who stood very firm in his decision not to take any risk And I found his adamance justified when we heard of Thipsay's experiences

Anyway, coming back to those anxious days before the London tournament, I virtually gave up all expectations of participating, let alone preparing for it

SW: How did the tour finally materialise?

DB Anxiety mounted day by day, but the Central Government decided at last to provide only the passage money—return fare—but only for me They did not take into account the fact that I needed a coach who is normally supposed to accompany a player to such major tournaments

The ball was now in our court and everything depended on how much money my father could borrow from his friends and relatives We needed at least Rs 18,000 and did not have much time He started borrowing from various sources but we lost a few valuable days in the process When at last we had the money there was no time left to get to Delhi by train, so we had to go by air and pay our own way

SW: Why did your father accompany you this time as your coach?

DB Well, there is no such thing as a coach in chess in our country I've learnt the game mostly on my own I've also picked up tips from my father, who, however, can never be said to be my coach because he is not a regular participant in tournaments, national or international This is a must for a good chess coach

In fact, the system is very peculiar here Only when it comes to going abroad for a major tournament does the All India Chess Federation send somebody as my coach He comes to my place a few days before the trip, shows me a few pointers and then after the tournament is over I find myself all alone once again It is extremely difficult to practise chess for long hours if you don't have a good companion

SW: Then how do you practise at home?

DB: I hardly practise at all It is only during tournaments that I get a sufficient amount of match play

SW: How many tournaments have you played so far this year?

DB: Well, quite a few, but I missed a number of important ones too due to my secondary examinations, in March. All these tournaments took place around January/February



Dibyendu deep in meditation

when I was preparing for the examination

Here too we chess players have a very fundamental problem A chess player needs to participate in tournaments just as much as he needs to take rest For those who can practise at home taking time off from competitive chess, it's okay But for people like me who cannot utilise much leisure time it's a big problem I can neither go in for too many competitions nor can train hard at home

SW: What is the situation like in European countries?

DB: They have got a very good system Four to five players train under one coach on a long-term basis and when one of his pupils go somewhere to play in tournaments they travel together It is not that this is the only way to improve one's game Chess is basically a game which needs individual talent But the main advantage of having an experienced coach is that he can keep a chess player abreast of the improvements in terms of skill and technique achieved by the stalwarts of the chess world That helps a player when he is participating in international tournaments

Only when it comes to going abroad for a major tournament does the AICF send somebody as my coach. He comes to my place a few days before the trip, shows me a few pointers and then after the tournament is over I find myself all alone.....Even you can come as my coach one day

SW: Can't this disadvantage be offset with the help of books? In chess, unlike other games, a player can profit considerably from various books and periodicals on the game

DB: Yes, that's true But where do I get such books? Of course there are some in organisations like the Alekhine Chess Club But they are not sufficient

Another problem is that many of these books do not suit my style of play In fact, every player, having his own line of thinking, has to choose books which are suitable for him But that requires a rich stock of chess literature which I do not have access to

SW: It has been noticed that one of your main weaknesses is a tendency to get into time-trouble Would you ascribe it to your lack of theoretical knowledge?

DB: Yes, to a great extent

SW: Would you explain that?

DB: I face this difficulty mostly when it comes to making what we call in chess 'obvious moves' These can be likened to copybook strokes in cricket In situations which call for such moves, foreign players, who certainly have an edge over me in book knowledge make their moves in no time, knowing for sure that they have only one option at that stage of play On the other hand, I have to strain myself hard to get out of the trouble Book-prescribed formulae are safe and dependable but I'm forced to contrive them myself and naturally have to spend much more time on it than others who are well versed in these techniques On many occasions I have created moves that can be found in books which I have never read Experts have pointed this out to me after reading my match descriptions But they never know how much time I have spent on these moves It's like fighting all alone How long can I continue this way?

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That day I was three or four minutes late.....I dashed straight to the table.....There I saw a bald-headed man waiting for his opponent to come. It was Victor Korchnoi and the clock had started at least four minutes ago

SW Do you get any help from the senior players of the country?

DB: Yes, they do help me from time to time, but only during tournaments when we happen to be close to one another. But such occurrences are very limited.

SW Have any of them ever offered to coach you?

DB: Well, Manuel Aaron once asked me to go to Madras and stay with him so that he could give me continuous coaching for some time. But that was impossible for me, because in that case I would have had to do away with my studies. I cannot afford to do such a thing at this stage. I wish I could have availed myself of this opportunity because Aaron is undoubtedly one of the best players in the country today and has always been very helpful towards me.

SW Do you have to pay the coaches who accompany you during foreign trips?

DB: No, nobody pays them, not even the AICT. The whole system is very informal and amateurish. A coach is sent just because the tournament authorities do not allow a player to participate in a competition without a coach or manager. So it is just a mere formality. Even you can come as my coach one day if the AICT selects you for the job.

(Laughs).

SW: Does not one have to be qualified to be a coach?

DB: Well, there are no definite rules on this score. Some of my coaches have not even played in National B tournaments while in international tournaments most of my opponents have been trained by Grandmasters. In Russia it is not impossible for an up-and-coming player to get coaching from the world champion himself.

SW: Why did you draw your first match though your opponent was not a very tough player?

DB: I think this was due to fatigue to some extent. Also because of my initial lethargy in adapting to the new atmosphere. I could have won, but my concentration perhaps was not very strong.

SW Talking about concentration, do you think too much media exposure began to tell on your game?

DB: I did not feel so, but my father thinks that it was one of the reasons why I could not maintain my form after the victory over Korchnoi. Maybe, this was the case, but I could not tell.

SW. Now tell us about your encounter with the ex-world champion Victor Korchnoi?

DB: That was one of the most dramatic moments in my life. It was a surprise that I never thought would be so memorable for me. I lived so far out that it took me about 45 minutes to reach London by train, so it was not possible for me to come in the morning and check up on the draw of the day. Thus, I never knew whom I was going to face.

That memorable day I was three or four minutes late. So, on reaching the hall, I didn't have any time to look up the chart of fixtures. Instead, I dashed straight to the table where I was supposed to play. There I saw a bald-headed man waiting for his

My father has now got to pay back the debt he has incurred and I've to try and learn the more advanced techniques of the game, all on my own. I don't know where I am going from here

opponent to come. It was Victor Korchnoi and the clock had started at least four minutes ago.

SW: Did you feel nervous when you found that the ex-champion was your opponent?

DB: No, absolutely not. On the contrary I was thrilled, because I knew I had nothing to lose even if I was routed by the maestro.

SW: How did you find him as a player?

DB: He is a very aggressive player and always seeks to gain an early breakthrough to turn the game in his favour. But this is a rather risky style of play, especially when the opponent is a positional player. One single mistake can spell disaster and that was partly why Korchnoi lost the match to me.

He went on the offensive right from the beginning, while I adopted more or less a defensive strategy. But both of us got into time trouble which called for fast moves from both sides. In a hurry, Korchnoi made a crucial mistake somewhere around the 44th move, but for which he could have earned a draw.

In fact, Korchnoi was not playing according to his usual form.

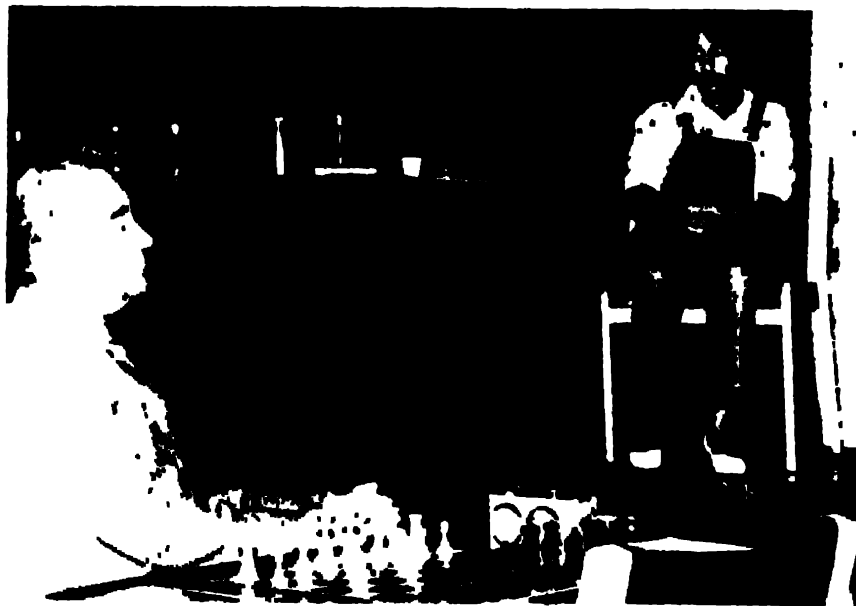
SW. Why do you think he declined to be photographed with you?

DB: He did not allow any player to be photographed with him, except during the prize distribution ceremony. I don't know the reason. But he is a perfect gentleman. After the match he sat with me, analysed the proceedings and showed me the mistakes I had made. I was very impressed. I think his refusal to be photographed with me has been played up by a section of the Press in an improper way. But people should not misunderstand him.

SW: What are your future plans?

DB: (Hesitantly) The more I take part in international tournaments, the more I'm beginning to realise that the uncertainty, the lack of proper coaching facilities and my poor knowledge of the theoretical aspects of the game are battling me. My father has now got to pay back the debt he has incurred and I have to try and learn the more advanced techniques of the game all on my own.

I don't know where I am going from here.



Victor Korchnoi

US OPEN

SHOOTOUT AT THE MEADOW

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on how Jimmy Connors re-established himself as the world's Number One

"I DID what I wanted to when I won Wimbledon one more time, but this is my tournament," Jimmy Connors said after winning his semi-final against Guillermo Vilas. There was no trace of arrogance in his voice. He went on to say "I love to play in front of these people—they're nuts and I'm nuts and we get along fine."

The king in exile was not the favourite according to the experts of the game. Almost unanimously they had named Ivan Lendl as the potential winner. But Connors was the folk hero, the favourite of the New York crowd. It had faith in him when he said that at 30 he could come back and reclaim the throne he occupied in 1974.

As this year's Open concluded, the wheel had turned a full circle for Jimmy Connors. In 1974, he won Wimbledon and the US Open and was ranked number one in the world. It never happened again, though he won the Open in 1976 and 1978. But now at last, he is at the top once again.

His final against Ivan Lendl was one of the most inspired performances of his career. Only his last two encounters against Borg at Wimbledon could compare with it. In 1976 and 1978 he fought tough against arch-rival Borg to win here. But this one was special.

He was fighting a man eight years younger than him. Lendl was especially awesome after overcoming McEnroe in six straight matches while conceding only one set. Lendl looked invincible. He had an 86.7 record in 19 tournaments of 1982. Out of these, he had won 11 and finished as runner-up in five.

Though Connors held an 8-1 career lead over him, Lendl had beaten him 6-1, 6-1 in their last encounter in August. Jimmy Connors does not believe in statistics. He believes only in one number—100. That is the percentage of attention he gives to every match he plays.

That was the way he played in the

final against Ivan Lendl. He knew he had to come up with a definite game plan against the powerful Czech who has been demolishing his rivals with total reverence. He was determined to attack Lendl's most powerful weapons, especially his forehand. He decided to drive the ball across Lendl's forehand to neutralise its deadly effect.

He also returned serve aggressively using the returns as weapons of attack, rather than tools of defence as McEnroe had. His answer to Lendl's aces would be accurate serves with a fair amount of spin, designed to slow down the Czech's powerful and vicious returns.

Above all, Jimmy Connors had faith in himself. Still, the cumulative experience over the years had taught him that the support of 20,000



screaming fans could be another useful weapon. He had seen McEnroe losing crowd support by arguing with officials only the day before. It was stunning to see the New York crowd rooting for the unpopular foreigner in McEnroe's backyard. Connors would leave the disputes and arguments to Lendl and behave like an ideal sportsman.

And the plan worked. Connors had the right weapons to make it work. There was a mild shock in store for the crowd as Lendl broke him in the first game of the first set, after he led 40-15. He remembered what had happened to McEnroe. He had to break back right away and re-establish the psychological advantage. Sure enough he broke back in the very next game.

By the sixth game, Lendl had begun disputes and arguments with the officials. The crowd began to boo him, as it had done to McEnroe. Lendl lost concentration after an argument in the sixth, double faulted and let Connors break him. In the second set, Connors broke in the very first game with triple break points. He broke again in the seventh, then trailed 15-40, but held serve to win the set at 6-2.

In the third set, Connors learned a valuable lesson. One bad game cost him the set and almost put his prospects in jeopardy. He began well by breaking Lendl in the third game. But then he lost two points as he was distracted by the planes flying low over the stadium. Then Lendl argued with the officials.

"Go home, Lendl," screamed someone from the crowd.

The masses booed loudly. It was not directed against Lendl, but at the barracker.

"Stay there, Ivan," yelled a woman.

And the crowd clapped. At last Ivan Lendl began to realise the true nature of a New York crowd. He had spent two weeks complaining that the crowd was against him because he did not smile. But the New York

kers supported him all the way in his crucial semi-final against McEnroe. Even against Connors they cheered him enthusiastically for any good play.

The barracking from the stands was another distraction for Connors. He double-faulted and let Lendl break him. It was too costly an error at this stage of the game.

Soon after the match against Vilas, he had suffered from cramps and the doctors had warned him about the danger of playing five sets. It would have been much safer to wrap up the match, especially at a point when Lendl looked crestfallen. Another break by Lendl in the crucial tenth game gave the Czech a new lease of life with a 6-4 third set.

Suddenly it looked like an altogether different game. The odds seemed to favour Lendl who once again began going full steam. But Connors and the crowd did what they had to. Lendl was broken in the very first game and Jimmy Connors finally began to move into top gear. Lendl broke him in the fifth but Connors broke right back in the next. In the game after that Lendl hit him with a ball and Connors pointed a warning finger at him. But his opponent wouldn't even look at him.

As Connors held serve on the eighth game, the match completed three hours. After finishing the game at last, he danced around with his index finger up meaning "One more game to go" and the 20,000 man chorus repeated it after them heroically. But Lendl held serve. Connors pointed two fingers as he needed just two more points. Again the crowds chanted the chorus and clapped in rhythm. Then the sign for "one more" and the chorus finally came the moment for Jimmy Connors. As Lendl hit a weak shot into net, he raised both hands, signalling that he was Number One again.

That he had indeed become "With the ring (the US Open title) being added to the cake (Wimbledon) it was perfect for Connors. He had beaten McEnroe at Wimbledon, Lendl here and both in their two exhibition games in between. The \$90,000 first prize made him the first man to earn four million dollars in pro tennis prize money in one year.

His future plans? He will cut his travelling schedule considerably to devote more time to his family and business. But he still thinks he has two or three more good years left in him.

It was a disappointing Open for both Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe. Lendl was hoping to win his first Grand Slam event. He had defeated Ramesh Krishnan in the first round and had survived a gruelling five-setter against Tim Mayotte who led 2-1 as they went into the fourth set tie-breaker.

His next victims were an out-of-



Martina Navratilova concentrates ferociously as she goes for a backhand against Jill Davis.

form Eddie Dibbs and the promising Mats Wilander, both of whom he defeated in straight sets. The revenge against Wilander seemed to give him immense pleasure and confidence. "I took a lot of garbage all summer long over losing to an unknown in the French Open. It was good for me that he eventually won the tournament," Lendl remarked after his win over the sporting Wilander.

He also scored an impressive win over Kim Warwick, the dark horse of

this tournament. Then he contained McEnroe in three sets through his sheer skill and psychological tactics. He tried the same with Connors, but in vain. As he came out of the second semi-final against McEnroe, television reporters asked him if he was ready to play Connors.

"Did he win today?" was the answer. He would have to have some nerve to pretend that he did not know the outcome of the match that was played on the same court a couple of hours previously. It could

THE END OF A REIGN

John McEnroe's career record at the US Open

1975

1st Round, Qualifying beat Barry Philips Moore 6-0, 6-2
2R Qual lost to Tony Parun 7-6, 6-1

1976

1R Qual beat Gary Plock 6-0, 6-4
2R Qual beat Tenny Svensson 6-3, 6-4
3R Qual lost to Zan Guerry 7-6, 6-7, 7-5

1977

1R beat Elliot Teltscher 6-1, 6-3
2R beat Hans Gildemeister 7-5, 6-1
3R beat Eddie Dibbs 6-2, 4-6, 6-4
4R lost to Manuel Orantes 6-2, 6-3

1978

1R beat Sherwood Stewart 7-6, 6-4
2R beat Jaime Fillol 6-4, 6-7, 6-1
3R beat Peter Fleming 6-4, 6-1
4R beat Colin Dowdeswell 7-6, 6-3, 6-3
QF beat Butch Walts 6-1, 6-2, 7-6
SF lost to Jimmy Connors 6-2, 6-2, 7-5

1979

1R beat Pavel Slozil 6-1, 6-2, 6-4
2R beat Ilie Nastase 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2
3R beat John Lloyd, default
4R beat Tom Gorman 6-2, 6-4, 6-1
QF beat Eddie Dibbs 2-1, retired
SF beat Jimmy Connors 6-3, 6-3, 7-5
F beat Vitas Gerulaitis 7-5, 6-3, 6-3

1980

1R beat Christophe Roger Vasselin 6-3, 6-4, 6-1
2R beat Steve Krulovitz 7-6, 6-0, 6-2
3R beat Ricky Meyer 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2
4R beat Pascal Portes 6-2, 6-4, 6-2
QF beat Ivan Lendl 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5
SF beat Jimmy Connors 6-4, 5-7, 0-6, 6-3, 7-6
F beat Bjorn Borg 7-6, 6-1, 6-7, 5-7, 6-3

1981

1R beat Juan Nunez 6-7, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2
2R beat Tom Gullickson 6-3, 6-1, 6-3
3R beat Pat DuPre 6-3, 6-2, 6-3
4R beat Kevin Curren 7-5, 6-0, 6-1
QF beat Ramesh Krishnan 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2
SF beat Vitas Gerulaitis 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1
F beat Bjorn Borg 6-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3

1982

1R beat Tim Gullickson 7-6, 6-3
2R beat Murt Davis 7-6, 6-3, 6-3
3R beat Vance Van Patten 6-3, 6-2, 6-3
4R beat Matt Bosk 6-3, 6-4, 6-4
QF beat Gene Mayer 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1
SF lost to Ivan Lendl 6-4, 6-4, 7-6

have been his way of showing that he couldn't care less about Connors. But after this final, he will remember for years to come what a maestro Jimmy Connors is.

In the early part of the finals he even made remarks to the officials implying that he was being discriminated against as a foreigner. He complained so much about the crowd being against him, but the sporting crowd of New York gave him an unforgettable lesson in that respect. With a little more exposure and experience, Ivan Lendl might some day grow up to be a "sportsman" in the true sense of the word. Right now, he is just the second best tennis player in the world.

John McEnroe had improved with every game in the Open. His quarter final against Gene Mayer was brilliant. He seemed to have regained the rhythm of his serve and speed on court. But he looked terrified in the semi final. There is something about Lendl that McEnroe hates so much that it makes him paranoid.

At the moment, John McEnroe looks very confused. He has never been the same after last year's Wimbledon experience. The desire to win at any cost is not there. Without being himself, McEnroe cannot play the game he should. There was no reason for the New York crowd to boo him in such a fashion at the semi-finals. It was interesting to hear a lot of people say on the day of the final that they felt sorry that John was not in the final and that they felt they let him down.

He seems to be frustrated by the fact that the public does not give him credit at least for trying to behave the way they want him to. Now that there is no more pressure on him to be Number One or Two, he might have time to take a good look at his own game and work on it.

Luck and the crowd were totally against him in this match against Lendl. Everything that could go wrong went wrong for him that awful evening. Still, he wouldn't make any excuses. "He forces me to do things differently," he said about Lendl. "That's the mark of a great player."

The forgotten man of the tournament was Guillermo Vilas. Only the women seemed to give him the attention he deserved. He had very difficult matches from the first round onwards. But as most of the seeds fell by the wayside, Vilas kept going. His abilities and coach Tiriac's will, pushed him past gruelling four setters and five setters. Ironically, his only easy match was the quarter final against Tom Gullickson. In the semi final he was impressive even while losing to Connors. No player looked so athletic and fit as the poet from Argentina.

It is also a pity that more is being written about Martina Navratilova's quarter final loss, than about Chris

Evert about Lloyd's sixth title. Martina made the front page of the *New York Times* in her loss, while Chris didn't, even in her historic victory. Maybe she achieved this great feat with so much ease that people failed to notice her classy performance. Perhaps it was because she didn't create any media sensation before the tournament.

The Press had involved her in a controversy after her second round match. One of the reporters asked her if she would travel to Australia to break the Grand Slam dreams of Martina Navratilova.

"Hopefully they will be broken by then," replied Chris. She had earlier remarked that she was a little insulted by the fact that Martina was claiming a place among the all time greats of tennis on the basis of just this year's performance.

Chris, for her part, had lost to Hana Mandlikova in the semi-finals of the French Open and to Navratilova in the finals at Wimbledon. No thing was missing in her game in both those matches except the desire. She came to the Open with the will to win but a bout of food poisoning almost knocked her out of the tournament. She stayed on courageously, played Kate Latham on an empty stomach and won.

Her match against Bonnie Gadusek, also from Florida, was a turning point. It was the day after Martina had lost. Chris was still weak and lost the first set to Gadusek.

At the changeover she made up her mind. "I didn't want to be another casualty here," she said later. She took 12 consecutive games to win the match. Her remaining matches against promising Zina Garrison, Andrea Jaeger and Hana Mandlikova were straight set wins. In fact, Jaeger played so well in the tournament till her semi final against Chris that some even singled her out to upset the veteran. Jaeger had won their two previous encounters this year, but this time Chris was gracious enough to emphasise that the 6-1, 6-2 score was no fair indication of the younger girl's performance.

Hana Mandlikova does not have a middle name. If she wants to have one, "Unpredictable" is the word. She is the most talented player on the circuit today. She plays in such an unorthodox style that she some times defies all ground rules. Chris Lloyd admitted that when Hana is on the go, she is unbeatable. But it is also true that when she is bad, she is terrible. Chris had swept her away in the 1981 Wimbledon final and the 1980 Open. The same happened in this year's final, for Hana played in patches. The result was 6-4, 6-1 for Chris. It took only 64 minutes for her to dispose of someone seven years younger than her.

There was something stunning about the way Chris played in the final. She was expected to stay near the baseline, but she came up to the net, driving Hana far back with some splendid rallies. "I can't really replay the match," Chris said later. "I was concentrating so hard I sort of was in a trance."

About the future she said, "I will go till December and then see how I feel. If I'm still eager, I will commit myself next year." But Hana Mandlikova says that Chris repeats the same thing almost every year.

Martina Navratilova's quarter-final loss to her close friend and doubles partner Pam Shriver, was a sad way of ending a 41 match streak. It was only her second defeat in 70 matches.

At the end of the 16, 7-6, 6-2 match Pam Shriver apologized to her friend.

Martina put her head on Shriver's shoulder as they left the court. Both were in tears. "I'm not bitter, but I'm disappointed. I'm glad it was Pam and not anyone else. I wish she could be more happy about it than she is. She was sad at the end. I know what she was going through," Martina said.

Even in defeat, she was gracious at the post match Press conference. Dr. Gary Wadler, one of the tournament physicians, had diagnosed a virus infection a week previously. He had asked her not to play. According to him, she was suffering from toxoplasmosis which she had contracted in Australia during the Federation Cup, and which could drain her in long matches. Evidently, that is what happened as the match stretched to the third set.

This is the one tournament that has always eluded Martina. Winning here would have meant a probable shot at the Grand Slam. She only had to repeat the Australian Open to do that. Some had even said that though she won the 1981 Australian Open in December, a victory here would count as a Grand Slam, but it was a controversial point.

In addition, she also lost a \$500,000 bonus from Player's Co. She had already won an identical amount after winning Wimbledon and a couple of other tournaments.

"Believe me, money is the last thing on my mind," Martina said. "The main thing is that I still have to win this tournament. People will always ask me how I never won the US Open."

THIS tournament had its share of upsets though it was unusual that the four top seeded men made the semi-finals. It had happened only once before in the open era of tennis in the US Open, French Open or Wimbledon. In the 1969 US Open Arthur Ashe, John Newcombe, Tony Roche and Rod Laver had done it.

Besides Gene Mayer, none of the other seeds made their way to the quarter-finals of the men's tourna-



Connors' victory over Lendl in the final of the US Open.

ment. The biggest casualties were first round losers Joe Luis Clerc and Vitas Gerulaitis. In single both the reigning champion.

In doubles, the reigning champions and top seeds were wiped out. There were few champions in the mixed doubles, and it was a total upheaval.

Seldom has the older generation of players dominated a Grand Slam tournament as they did at this year's Open. Most of the upsets came from men over the age of 30. The Nastase seemed to lead the way and many followed. When 36 year old Nastase beats the pulp out of robust Johan Kriek in a five setter, what do you call it? A miracle? Why not?

Obscures Jimmy Connors. "Everybody counts Nastase out because he's 36 years old, but he's got more talent in his little finger than 95 per cent of the players here. To play at his age, you've got to be disciplined, and he is never disciplined. If he had controlled himself, he could have been unmatched." The glimpses of Nastase's old magic were visible even in his quarter-final match against Connors.

Australian Kim Warwick (30), former Chilean Davis Cup player Jaime Fillol (36) and Tom Gullickson (30) were the other surprises in the last 16 of the tournament. Warwick upset the charismatic and popular Yannick Noah (22) of France. Till then, Noah had an excellent streak in the tournament. Fillol overcame power player Fritz Buehning who had beaten Gerulaitis. Gullickson disposed of ace server Chip Hooper who had out served no less than Roscoe Tanner. Another surprise was the singles showing of doubles player Steve Denton who teamed up with Kevin Curren of South Africa to take

the doubles.

Still, it was never in old man's tournament seldom have so many unknown players come to the lime light in a recent tournament. The young Swedish game did not rise up to their joint reputation, but the American youngsters, especially the junior Davis Cup players, stole the show.

Rodney Harmon, an unknown from the Southern Methodist University, beat Florin Tolscher and became the second black man to enter the quarter finals of the Open. Only Arthur Ashe had done it before. This young man ranked only 225 in the world. Another college 19 year old Eric Korita (No. 357 on the ATP list) almost knocked out Yannick Noah in a three and a half hour encounter. Jimmy Arias, Mike DePalmer, Matt Doyle and Mark Dickson gave a preview of things to come in the next couple of years.

Eight of the last sixteen in the women's section were teenagers. Gretchen Ann Rush, and Lisa Bruglin, unknown amateurs, skyrocketed to fame during this tournament. Susan Mascarin who beat Billie Jean King on the opening day, and Bonnie Gadusek will be around for a while, tormenting the established stars. Zina Garrison and Kathy Rinaldi were superb in the early matches.

Barbara Potter and Bettina Bunge were not too lucky this time. It was heartbreaking to see Barbara losing the doubles and mixed doubles one after the other on the last day. These young women and Andrea Leand are bound to win their spurs soon. Seldom do tennis and beauty combine in women as in them.

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US OPEN DIARY

GEORGE K. GEORGE

DAY ONE

Exit India

MATS WILANDER, the hero of the French Open, sets the ball rolling exactly at 11 a.m. on the morning of the last day of August. It is rather warm and humid as the day goes by. Wilander is a little nervous and erratic in the first set, against opponent Bill Scanlon, but wins it all the same at 6-4. Then he sweeps the next two, giving away only four more games. The talent of this calm, cool young man is too obvious. He indicates that he is set to go a long way.

In the meantime Brian Teacher and John Sadri give a classic demonstration of powerful, accurate serving. Teacher has more tricks for the students of the game.

Ivan Lendl and Ramesh Krishnan come onto the stadium court after Wilander has won. Both are nervous in the beginning, but soon Ramesh begins to look more confident. He plays like the favourite. The 6-4, 7-6, 6-1 win by Lendl is more even than the scorecard indicates. With Ramesh's exit, India bows out of the tournament.

Guillermo Vilas loses the first set against Chris Dunk (AIP ranking 208) and goes through many moments of anxiety in the second before settling down to win with ease. Another veteran, Wojtek Fibak, loses to young Chris Mayotte in a five-setter. Stan Smith strikes a blow for the veterans by beating collegian Mike Leach in another five-setter.

But the upset of the day comes in the women's section. Billie Jean King takes on 18-year-old Susan Mascarin for the third match of the day in the main arena. Billie Jean, who played her first US championship five years before her opponent was born, begins with an impressive 3-0 lead. But the world No. 53 has other ideas. She takes the next six games of the set and follows it up with a 6-3 score in the second.

The night session sees Chris Evert-Lloyd eliminate Pilar Vasquez as Johan Kriek accounts for Dick Stockton.

The match of the day: the Vilas-Dunk duel.

DAY TWO

Glamour boys bite the dust

VITAS GERULAITIS and Jose Luis Clerc are certainly tennis' leading glamour boys. Their looks, style and mannerisms give them a

star quality that appeals to the masses. Talent they have in abundance, but somehow both men have not lived up to it. Clerc missed Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow was his big chance of 1982. Both men blow it in the first round, here at the US Open.

Gerulaitis has reason to be distracted because the crowd baits him mercilessly. He goes down to bearded Fritz Buchning of New Jersey in straight sets. The second game ends in a tie breaker. But in the other two, there is little Gerulaitis can do. Everything goes wrong for him.

Clerc literally blows his chance as he plays Kim Warwick of Australia. The final score of 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3) tells the true story of the roller coaster match. It is heart-breaking to see Clerc lose the final tie breaker. Thus, the fifth and seventh seeds of the tournament go down to the world's Number 56 and 53 respectively.

These upsets also change the balance of the draw. Jimmy Connors, who has an easier draw than most, has his most difficult hurdle out of his way. In the meantime Jimmy wins his opening match without any difficulty against the popular Jeff Borowiak.

Then, it was time for the entry of the clown. Ilie Nastase makes his regular appearance and wins the opener in straight sets. Bob Lutz, the well-known doubles player, is another veteran winner.

Tracy Austin and Martina Navratilova win their opening matches without any problems. Tracy's match is postponed by a day due to her shoulder problems. Andrea Jaeger, the No. four seed, looks very impressive in her first round match. Bettina Bungee (9) and young Kathy Rinaldi (13) are the other seeds who score comfortable wins. The notable losers are Virginia Wade and Lesley Allen.

Rain prevents defending champion John McEnroe from completing his match against Tim Gullickson. Other rain victims are Elliot Teltscher and Roscoe Tanner.

The match of the day: Clerc vs Warwick.

DAY THREE

A few mild upsets

THIS is a day of mild upsets. Barbara Potter, Mima Jausovec, Raul Ramirez and Mark Edmondson are edged out by unknown opponents in their second-round matches, as the top seeds continue their victorious march.

In the morning, John McEnroe completes his first match and wins in straight sets. Tanner and Teltscher also play out their openers comfortably. Tanner is extended to the fifth set by Sweden's Per Hjertquist.

In the women's section, Kathy Jordan and Betty Stove suffer humiliation, but Claudia Khode and Zina Garrison, two young talents, march ahead with easy wins.

Now it is time for the second round matches. Yannick Noah comes up with a brilliant performance against Brian Gottfried. The Simonsson brothers of the Swedish team run out of luck. Stefan loses to Gene Mayer but Hans overcomes the experienced Stan Smith.

Chris Evert-Lloyd has an easy encounter with Keely Henry. Virginia Ruzici of Rumania also has an easy second round match. But Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia (seeded 11) is eliminated by Gretchen Rush of Pittsburgh in a three-setter. Susan Mascarin, who humiliated Billie Jean King, bows out to Vicki Nelson after winning the first set. Promising Barbara Potter (seeded 10) loses against Ros Fairbanks of South Africa in a mild upset. But Tracy Austin is impressive against Beth Norton.

There are two casualties among the seeded men. Mexico's Raul Ramirez is shocked by Schalk Van Der Merwe of South Africa in a four-set encounter. Mark Edmondson, who made the semifinals at Wimbledon this year, loses. Matt Doyle, a young American who plays Davis Cup for Ireland.

The feature match of the event, between Wimbledon Young Turk Tim Mayotte and Ivan Lendl, is rained out after the Czech wins the first set. It is a great day for several upcoming young Americans such as Mark Dickson, Eric Korita and Mike Depalmar.

The match of the day: Noah vs Gottfried.

DAY FOUR

Lendl escapes doom

IVAN LENDL gets the scare of his life. He is almost knocked out of the tournament by Wimbledon troublemaker Tim Mayotte. As the washed-out match of the previous evening continues with a one-set lead to Lendl, the trend begins to reverse.

Mayotte and the crowd take the second and the third sets from Lendl. The tie-breaker of the fourth set goes to Lendl (7-4) and the stone-faced

Czech take the fifth. The final scores read 6-4, 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 in Lendl's favour. Mayotte keeps him on his toes three hours and 13 minutes, and serves 19 aces before losing.

On any other day, the talk of the town would have been the Roscoe Tanner-Chip Hooper shootout, but not on the day of the Lendl-Mayotte war. The strongest servers of the game today, Tanner and Hooper go for each other for four hours and 20 minutes and Hooper wins it 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4).

More than 7000 spectators jam-pack the grandstand to witness the game. There is not an inch of space left. The intimidating tactics of the powerfully built and bullet-spitting rivals provide occasional comic relief as well. Tanner leads the tally of aces by 24 to Hooper's nine. But the 23-year-old, six foot six inch, 210-pound giant has the last laugh against his 31-year-old rival.

This proves a perfect day for the most exciting matches of the tournament. The attendance is a record 20,738.

As usual, the top seeds McEnroe, Connors and Elliot Teltscher have no problems. But Brian Leaher, the No. 14 seed, is surprised by 20-year-old Scott Davis who is having a surprisingly successful streak here. Steve Denton, another recent success, scores over Claudio Panatta while Mel Purcell beats Sherwood Stewart and Johan Kriek overcomes Victor Amaya. Harold Solomon who seldom plays in tournaments these days, knocks out young Frenchman Thierry Tulsane, but young Jimmy Arias strikes a blow for youth by beating Shlomo Glickstein of Israel.

Martina Navratilova, Bettina Bunge, Kathy Rinaldi, Andrea Jaeger, Hana Mandlikova and Wendy Turnbull continue to win with ease.

The match of the day, Tanner vs Hooper.

DAY FIVE

Korita's day

The name is totally unfamiliar, even for the most avid tennis fan in the United States. Eric Korita is the full name. He is 19 and a sophomore (second year) in college at Southern Methodist and hails from Illinois. He has cut his weight down from 235 pounds to 198. He is six foot five inches. He breaks about three or four racquet strings in a set. Hardly anyone noticed that he served 16 aces in his previous match. On the ATP computer, his name appears as only 335.

But the national television audience has to look at him for over three and a half hours as Ynick Noah, one of the most popular players of the tournament, almost loses to him. Only Noah's experience helps him to prevail over the strong serve in

depth volleys, artistic touch and supreme confidence of Korita.

In the end, Noah wins 7-5, 6-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in what is probably the best match of the tournament thus far. Both men play superb tennis and both are equally dear to the crowd. It is a delight to see tennis being played in the true competitive spirit. It is pure tennis in its original innocence. It just doesn't look like pro tennis at all.

Kim Watwick continues his low-key upset streak by beating Heinz Gunthardt. Matt Doyle is impressive in his win over Hans Simonsson of Sweden.



the Nastase

Gene Mayer gets past Mark Dickson of Florida, a very promising discovery of this tournament. Ivan Lendl takes on Harold Solomon and only gives away four games in all.

The leading women players have no problems on this day. Martina Navratilova wins the 67th of her last 68 matches in two sets. Her doubles partner Pam Shriver wins though she is extended by Dana Gilbert. Tracy Austin, Virginia Ruzici and Andrea Jaeger sail smoothly into the fourth round.

The match of the day, Noah vs Korita.

DAY SIX

The Nasty day

WHEN the Nastase told people yesterday that he was going to take things seriously in his third round match with tenth seeded Johan Kriek of South Africa, they thought Nastase was only kidding. But there was an undercurrent of nostalgic desire in his voice as he discussed the prospect of meeting his long time friend Jimmy Connors in the fourth round.

And that was precisely what Nastase did. The match itself is a crazy affair, as crazy as the 36-year-old Rumanian. He loses the first set at 6-4, leads 5-0 in the second set, but loses the next six and finally saves his skin by winning the tie breaker 7-6 (7-2). He could have wrapped up the third easily, but blows his chance for a commanding 5-2 lead. Another tie breaker and he loses it at 10-8. And then takes the fourth at 6-3. Kriek breaks him right away in the fifth to take a 2-0 lead, but Nastase's patience (no kidding) pays off and he sweeps the next six games to win the third and a half hour affair.

As many as 21 double faults by Kriek and his impatience, and whole-hearted crowd support helps Nastase to achieve the unexpected. This afternoon the Nastase is the talk here. His friends and fellow players greet him with paper confetti as he comes back to the locker room. For a change Nastase has captured the heart of the crowd by a sincere and consistent effort.

Another 36-year-old, former Chilean Davis Cup player, Jaime Lillo sends home Fritz Buehning, who had eliminated Vitas Gerulaitis. Another veteran 31-year-old Tom Gullikson disposes off hard serving Chip Hooper, who had accounted for Roscoe Tanner. Both the matches are four setters. John McEnroe plays copybook tennis to wipe out Vince Van Patten, who had beaten him last year in Tokyo. And Guillermo Vilas overcomes collegian Mike DePalmer in four sets.

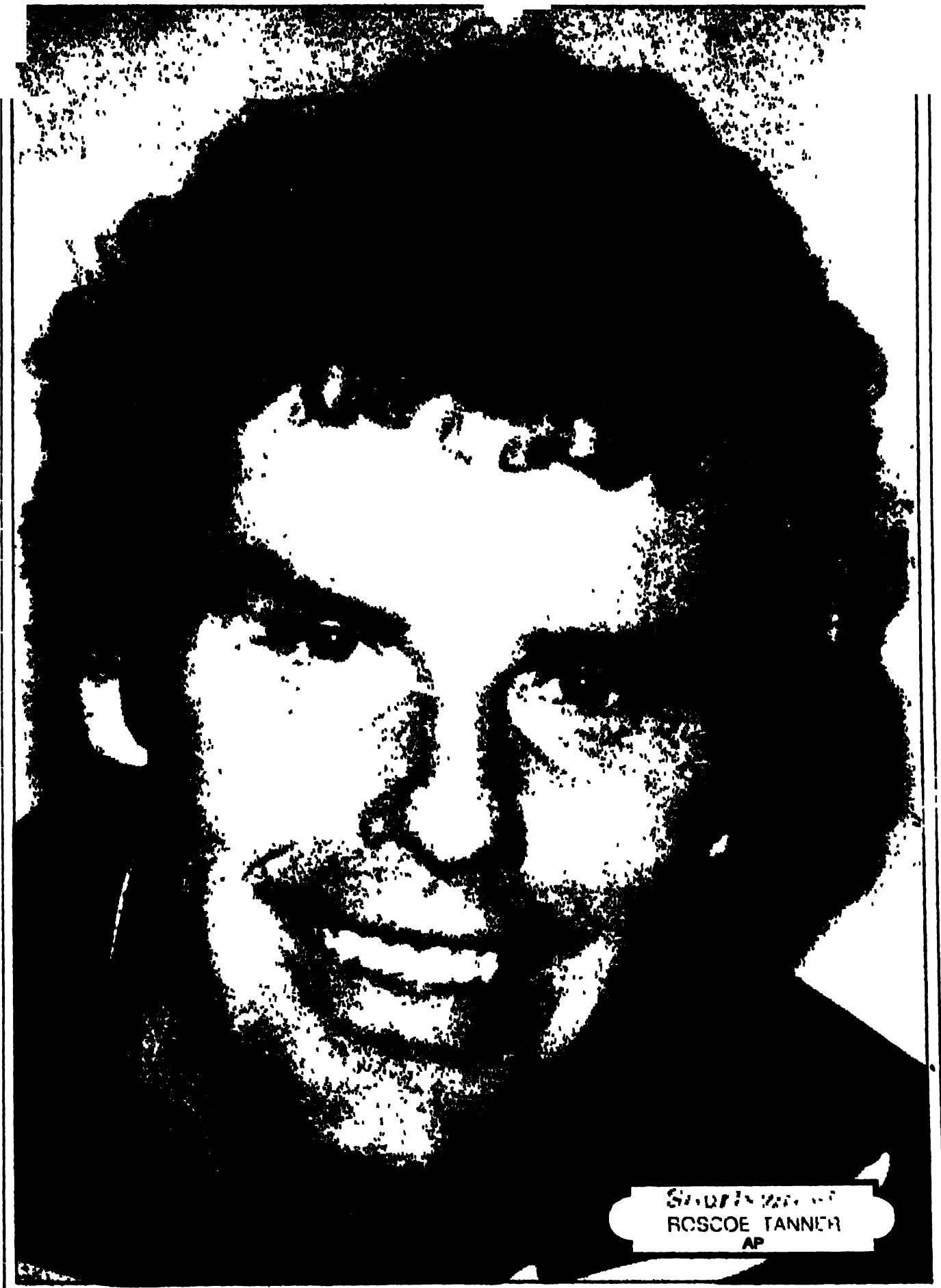
And to climax it, Chris Evert Lloyd almost defaults her match against Kate Latham due to food poisoning. She decides to play, even though her stomach has not held any food for the whole day, while Andrea Jaeger scores another impressive win.

The match of the day, Nastase vs Kriek.

DAY SEVEN

The day Ivan smiled

AT last Ivan Lendl smiles. He has a reason to. He has just destroyed young Mats Wilander, now 18, in tonight's match. At Paris, the young Swede had demolished the unpopular Czech on his favourite clay sur-



SHOOTING OF
ROSCOE TANNER
AP

face Wilander now can claim only two games in each of the three sets they play. Nothing gives Ivan Lendl more pleasure than revenge. And hence, the smile.

Suddenly something unexpected comes up for Lendl even before he plays Wilander. Remember the 30-year-old Kim Warwick, who has played very little tennis recently due to a shoulder surgery but went great guns to beat Fritz Buehning? He does it again this morning by eliminating Yannick Noah who has been the toast of the crowd in this tournament. Noah plays superb tennis, but loses. There is no other way to say it. The better performer just lost. A couple of errors in crucial moments and it is all over.

This is a day of mixed luck for John McEnroe. He plays an all-round game to overcome young Matt Doyle, who puts up an exceptional show and remains the only player in the men's division not to lose a set.

But he has little luck in the doubles. Peter Fleming and McEnroe lose to Victor Amaya and Hank Pfister. It is another blow to McEnroe's already-eroded confidence. Perhaps, it is a blessing in disguise as it will enable him later to concentrate on the singles. His next opponent will be Gene Mayer who eliminates veteran Bob Lutz. It is the first time in seven years that Mayer has reached the quarter-finals at the Open.

For the women it is another easy day. Martina beats Andrea Leand who is not in perfect physical condition. Had she abstained, it would have deprived the Open of something beautiful. It is a sheer delight watching Leand's wild game. As she is being systematically removed on the Stadium Court, Andrea Jaeger is prevailing over young Kathy Rinaldi in the Grand Stand.

Tracy Austin also has no difficulty in dispatching Virginia Ruzici and Pam Shriver gets past Ross Fairbanks. Bonnie Gadusek wipes out Elsie Burgin, who had become one of the dark horses of the tourney. But the upset of the day comes from an unknown Gretchen Rush who knocks out Wendy Turnbull (number six

The match of the day: Noah vs. Warwick.

DAY EIGHT

The death of a cover girl

THIS proves to be the most exciting day of the tournament. No body could have foretold the events that would take place during this day. Two major upsets today change the complexion of the tournament considerably. Pam Shriver eliminates her doubles partner, Martina Navratilova, the favourite of the

tournament, 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Simultaneously, in the Grand Stand Court, another upset follows. U.S. Davis Cup star Elliot Teltscher, the number eight seed is edged out by unknown Rodney Harmon, a 20-year-old collegian. It is a five-set duel which has the crowd on tenterhooks till the fifth set tie-breaker. In the fifth set, Harmon is trailing 0-40 in the ninth game. Teltscher has the opportunity of making it 4-5 and after three deuces, he does exactly that. Then both hold serve to move into the tie-breaker which Harmon wins 7-1. The match lasts a full four hours.

Guillermo Vilas almost goes out of the competition as he faces hard-serving Steve Denton. The veteran loses the first two sets to Denton 3-6 and 4-6. Then he comes back to win the next three sets 6-3, 7-6, 6-3. Denton serves no less than 25 aces, but the grit and determination of Vilas pay off once again.

The match between Jimmy Connors and Ilie Nastase tonight is more entertainment than competition. Nastase throws his towel at the umpire, calls him a couple of choice words, hits him on his feet with his racquet and asks him to shut up. The match is interrupted by rain, but when it resumes, the 36-year old Rumanian comes up with every weapon in his armoury, before losing to his old friend.

Another major match of the day features Tracy Austin and Hana Mandlikova and is postponed due to rain as Tracy leads 6-4.

The match of the day: Navratilova vs. Shriver.

DAY NINE

Czechoslovakia's day

THE upset of the day comes from the match that was postponed yesterday. Defending champion Tracy Austin is defeated by Hana Mandlikova. Tracy leads 3-1 after breaking Hana in the opening game.

But Hana comes back strongly. She breaks Tracy in the sixth and the tenth games to take the set at 7-4. She wins the next one on an identical score. Tracy has recovered from her shoulder ailment last Thursday. But it is evident that she is not match tough, due to the lack of match practice in the last few months. As usual, she is a graceful loser who gives full credit to Hana, without a mention of her injuries.

Chris Evert-Lloyd loses the first set against Bonnie Gadusek. For a moment, it looks as if another upset is on. Between the change over and the second set, Chris seems to have regained her will, though she looks weak as a result of the food poisoning.

She allows Bonnie to take only one game in the next two sets. With a

12-game streak she wins the match in style to move into the semi-finals.

Andrea Jaeger also loses her first set against Gretchen Rush, an 18-year-old amateur who has entered the tournament on a wild card. Gretchen wins the first set 6-3. Then it is Andrea's turn to sweep the next two at one and love.

Ivan Lendl has no difficulty in overcoming Kim Warwick in straight sets. The tough match against Mayotte and the win over Wilander seem to have affected the Australian's game.

John McEnroe serves 14 aces to overpower Gene Mayer tonight. The scores read 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. This is the first time someone has taken a set off McEnroe in this tournament. Gene plays a superb game, but John is even better.

The last game of the final set is a beauty. McEnroe serves two aces and then wins the next two points to win at love. Finally, John McEnroe seems to be back to form. He also has a few arguments with the officials and quite a bit of interaction with the crowd.

DAY TEN

New champions in men's doubles

SELDOM does a doubles match steal the show on a day when two major quarter-final matches are played. Today is just one of those rare days. The top seeded men's doubles team of John McEnroe and Peter Fleming, have already lost to Hank Pfister and Victor Amaya. The giant killers then take on third seeded Steve Denton and Kevin Curren. Normally, Curren of South Africa is the lead player of his doubles team. Today he is out of form and Steve Denton has had to take command.

The match is a cliff hanger. Pfister runs into trouble as his temper gets the better of him, but big Vic holds the fort admirably in critical moments. The first two sets are taken by the South African and his partner. In the third, Denton double faults to make it 30-40 and Amaya gratefully accepts the chance for the break. After a deuce he finishes the game to make it 5-7. That is the first break he and Pfister get in two sets and they win the fourth set conceding only two games.

In the fifth Amaya and Pfister come close to breaking their opponents as Denton serves at 4-3. They muff the opportunity, but hold serve to make it 5-4. Then Curren serves seven match points after leading 40-0, to finally win the title.

Jimmy Connors offers invaluable experience to Rodney Harmon and clean fun to the crowds in his quarter-final match. Harmon has been very lucky to be in the quarters as he had only one significant opponent, Teltscher, till then. The draw could

not have been more favourable. His university coach Dennis Ralston and Arthur Ashe had given him many a tip, which seems to confuse him. In the process, he forgets to play his uninhibited, natural game. He realises this only in the second half of the third set. But by now it is too late.

Guillermo Vilas has an easy match for a change. Tom Gullikson is allowed to take home his minimum wages—just six games in three sets. Frankly, it looks a terrible mismatch.

The match of the day: The men's doubles finals.

DAY ELEVEN

Chris routs Jaeger

CHRIS EVERT's win over Andrea Jaeger is not totally unexpected. Andrea has been in good form and one could take it for granted that Chris would win. Besides, Chris' physical condition is still suspect. But Jaeger makes it so easy for her. It takes only 75 minutes for the 27-year-old Chris to beat the girl 10 years her junior. Andrea's concentration is extremely poor. She takes one game in the first set and two in the second. It is a clean sweep for Miss Lloyd.

Pam Shriver and Hana Mandlikova provide an interesting match with their varied styles. The games and sets come and go quickly. Hana has the final say at 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. It is aggressive tennis at its best, from both the young women. Hana seems to have more determination and patience than usual.

There is another blow in store for Pam Shriver. She and Martina Navratilova go down in the doubles to Barbara Potter and Sharon Walsh, the number 5 seeds, in three sets. Shriver and Navratilova are the reigning Wimbledon champions and are seeded No. 1. Here, they got a walkover in the previous round as Chris Evert Lloyd and Billie Jean King decided to drop out. Pam's only chance of bringing some joy to her partner whom she knocked out of the tournament has just eluded her.

Rosie Cassals and Wendy Turnbull win the other semi-final of the women's doubles by beating Bettina Bunge and Claudia Khode. Pat Cash of Australia, who also participated in the men's division, takes the boys' title beating Guy Forget of France.

The match of the day: Shriver vs Mandlikova.

DAY TWELVE

Chris crowned, McEnroe dethroned

THE main event of the day turns out to be the third match in which John McEnroe, the defending champion, meets his arch-rival Ivan

The last decade

- 1971 Billie Jean King defeated Kerry Melville 6-3, 7-5
- 1972 Margaret Smith Court defeated Evonne Culaquang 7-6, 5-7, 6-2
- 1973 Billie Jean King defeated Evonne Culaquang 6-4, 6-2, 7-5
- 1974 Chris Evert defeated Evonne Culaquang 5-7, 6-0, 5-3
- 1975 Chris Evert
- 1976 Chris Evert defeated Wendy Turnbull 7-6, 6-3
- 1977 Chris Evert defeated Pam Shriver 7-5, 6-4
- 1978 Tracy Austin defeated Chris Evert-Lloyd 6-4, 6-2
- 1979 Chris Evert-Lloyd defeated Hana Mandlikova 6-3, 4-2, 6-1
- 1980 Tracy Austin defeated Martina Navratilova 1-6, 7-6, 7-6
- 1981 Billie Jean King defeated Arthur Ashe 3-6, 6-3, 6-7
- 1982 Rosalyn Wicks defeated Jan Kodes 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3
- 1983 Connors defeated Ken Rosewall 6-1, 6-0, 6-1
- 1984 Connors defeated Jimmy Connors 6-4, 6-3, 6-3
- 1985 Jimmy Connors defeated Bjorn Borg 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4
- 1986 Guillermo Vilas defeated Jimmy Connors 2-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-0
- 1987 Jimmy Connors defeated Bjorn Borg 6-4, 6-2, 6-2
- 1988 John McEnroe defeated Vitas Gerulaitis 7-5, 6-3, 6-3
- 1989 John McEnroe defeated Bjorn Borg 7-6, 6-1, 6-7, 5-7, 6-4
- 1990 John McEnroe defeated Bjorn Borg 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3

Lendl McEnroe loses in three sets 4-6, 4-6, 6-7.

Chris Evert Lloyd routes Hana Mandlikova 6-3, 6-1. Jimmy Connors beats Guillermo Vilas 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. For the first time in this tournament one sees Jimmy Connors pumping himself up after winning big points.

Jaime Fillol of Chile wins the above 35 men's tournament beating Colin Dibley, and Billie Jean King takes the corresponding women's title.

The junior girls final is a heart-break. Gretchen Rush, a major sensation in the women's division is beaten by Beth Herr, a fellow American. Beth also wins the girls' doubles with Penny Baig.

Two American boys, Jonathan Canter and Michael Kures take the boys' doubles title beating Pat Cash

and John Frawley of Australia.

India's Ramanathan Krishnan and American Gene Scott lose to Fred Stolle of Australia and Pancho Segura in the senior men's doubles semi-finals.

DAY THIRTEEN

The return of the king

IT is a bad day for young Barbara Potter, one of the most charismatic players of the women's circuit. She and Sharon Walsh lose the doubles to Rosie Cassals and Wendy Turnbull. Then after three tie-breakers, Barbie and Ferdi Taygan lose the mixed doubles to Anne Smith and Kevin Curren.

Then Jimmy Connors brings the world back to 1974.

Kathy Rinaldi still a long way to go







AP

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA

Srikkanth stars as India canter home

HARESH MUNWANI reports

IT was not the best of ways to begin the cricket season. But with the ever-increasing engagements against international sides, the Board of Control for Cricket in India has bypassed the growing needs of domestic need in favour of the money-spinning Test matches.

Roger Binny and Srikkanth's task of opening the innings was made easier because De Mel and V John were wayward in their direction. Srikkanth in particular was severe on the erring bowlers and scored at a galloping pace. He was able to pierce the gaps and reach the fence frequently. It was a highly effective knock and suited to the requirements of one-day cricket. And though Srikkanth was not always on top of the ball while hitting it, he ensured that the scoring rate was rather brisk. As long as he was there a little under seven runs were coming per over. Of the 57 Srikkanth got off 43 deliveries, there were 10 fours and a six.

India lost her first wicket in the ninth over at 62, when Binny was surprisingly given leg before after being hit a bit high on the right leg after De Mel's delivery came in sharply. Both, John and De Mel, bowled a generous amount of wides and no-balls, with the latter conceding 38 runs in only five overs. Following Srikkanth's departure at 95, the Indian innings lost its momentum. Vengsarkar, Ashok Malhotra and Sandeep Patil could not capitalize on the goodwork of Srikkanth, adding 67 runs between themselves in 17 overs.

Vengsarkar was out trying to loft at 24, caught at long on because the ball did not come off from the middle of the bat. Malhotra went for 40, in a bid to chop an over pitched ball and was bowled.

Kapil Dev and Yashpal, aided by some good running between the wickets, ensured that the good start of the innings was not wasted. Kapil by his own standards played a restrained knock of 49. The quick bowler Yashpal was unbeaten at 37 when the Indian innings ended at 269 for seven off 46 overs. The Indian total was denied 15 to 20 runs because some of the batsmen neither showed the urgency to take quick singles nor the speed to convert twos into threes. Except for Vengsarkar, Kapil and Yashpal, the running between the wickets of the others was a

bit casual for limited-overs cricket. And except for Warnapura, who had two for 41 off ten overs and Ratnayake to some extent, the other Sri Lanka bowlers erred in line and length.

And with the Sri Lankans losing Warnapura in the fourth over to Madan La' the fate of the match was never in doubt. Warnapura played a rather ambitious drive too early in the innings. After the eighth over, Kapil replaced himself with Binny and Mohinder was introduced into the attack after Madan had completed a six-over stint. Wettimuny and Roy Dias got some respite as a result.

Sri Lanka's 50 came off 13.2 overs, which was six overs more than what India had got theirs in. Dilip Doshi, bowling with his customary guile, was the most successful bowler on the Indian side, capturing four wickets for 44 in his stipulated 10 overs. Not giving the ball much air, Doshi more often than not, had the batsmen guessing as to what the ball would do.

Three good catches in the outfield lifted India's standard of fielding, two by Madan and one by Yashpal. Roy Dias lifted Doshi and Yashpal, positioned at long off finding the ball dropping, ran 20 yards to make the catch. Madugalle mistimed a Doshi delivery and Madan at mid-wicket ran backwards to mid-on. On another occasion De Mel aimed to clear the long-on fence off a Doshi delivery when Madan just plucked the ball out of the air. At the end of 46 overs Sri Lanka were eight down for 191, being totally outplayed by India.

India 269 for seven (Srikkanth 57, Malhotra 40, Kapil 49, Yashpal 37).

Sri Lanka 191 for eight (Wettimuny 43, Dias 39, Mendis 33, Ranasinghe 35, Doshi four for 44).

DESPITE being under pressure of having to score six runs an over, India coasted to a surprisingly comfortable—and convincing—victory over Sri Lanka in the one day international at Delhi.

After losing Binny early in the innings, out leg before to De Mel while trying to go for a big hit to leg, Srikkanth played some attractive and authoritative shots. The 50 of the innings came up in 7.2 overs, the 100 in 14.2 and the 150 in just 21.2 overs. Such was Srikkanth's domina-

tion.

Displaying a better ball-selection for his shots than he had done at Amritsar—where he had scored 57—Srikkanth lived up to his well-earned reputation of being ideally suited to limited-overs cricket. He required mere 33 deliveries to notch up his half-century. All bowling came alike to him.

Tragically, as he approached his eighties, Srikkanth was a bit exhausted and his concentration wavered and consequently, his running between the wickets suffered. It is at these times that a batsman needs luck. But unfortunately for Srikkanth, it was not his day and he was denied a richly deserved century. At 85 he survived a difficult chance to Ranasinghe off the bowling of Warnapura. But it was obvious that the body was not following the instructions of the brain, when two overs later Srikkanth drove a ball to extra cover without getting his feet to the pitch of the ball and was caught. Srikkanth's tally at that stage was 95, made in 66 balls, decorated with one six and 13 hits to the pickets.

Even though it was just the 23rd over that brought about Srikkanth's dismissal, the score was an imposing 160 and the issue was settled in India's favour there and then, barring the untoreseen. As a result the rest of the match was devoid of interest.

Vengsarkar, who added 134 for the second wicket along with Srikkanth, started off with rightful circumspection. Cutting out all flourish in the earlier part of his innings Vengsarkar relied solely on placement. It was only after he had gauged the pace of the wicket and ensured that the initiative stayed with his team, that he hit a six and four boundaries and eventually ended with 53.

Patil joined Malhotra at the fall of Dilip Vengsarkar's wicket. Both batsmen were content to score in ones and twos rather than resort to ambitions of strokeplay. As India at that stage still needed 111 runs.

Patil played a rather subdued knock and it was only when India were virtually home that Patil cleared the boundary twice. Patil contributed 4 and Malhotra was unbeaten with 44 useful runs.

As for the wicket at Delhi, it was a good batting track which made the bowler's task unenviable. No single bowler on either side made a signifi-



NATWEST BANK TROPHY FINAL

Surrey corner the interest

IT seemed pleasant to think of the serpentine queues at Lord's as early as 8.30, which are exaggeratedly punctual here in England, and the warm waft of toast, beans and coffee when ambling down St John's Wood Road for the finale. Ladbroke's made much of the game between Surrey and Warwickshire, not that the spectators didn't, I'd be surprised if more than a handful of the Counties had better batting sides than Warwickshire—on paper, that is—and bowling line-ups with Surrey to beat. And memories of that final of 1981 between Derbyshire and Northamptonshire had been just too recent to give the organisers any goose flesh over dwindling gate receipts and cricketing indifference.

By all considerations it should have been a needle match. But Warwickshire, batting first, spluttered just too early and the issue was never in doubt even after an hour from the start. Much is ascribed to the fact that the NatWest game commenced at 10 o'clock when the powers of the elements appeared much in evidence. But not to imply that Warwickshire were unlucky to lose the toss and be asked to bat. Most of them played rank shots, calling for the doom themselves and to think that some of Warwickshire's sentinel were also Test players who had done their countries proud! The board couldn't have read anything worse than 28 for eight with no promising batting to come round the bend but Asif Din and Gladstone Small fixed themselves in and proved that batting was never as impossible as their predecessors had mysteriously made it out to be. 'Gunga' Din at number six chipped in with 45 while Small lent adequate support with a fairly big 33. Warwickshire finished at a paltry 158 all out off 57.2 overs and a fight never really looked to be on unless, as the savans collectively agreed, Willis and his sidekicks got the ball up and kicking and pitched their rivals in for some soup.

Earlier, the slide had begun with Lloyd. He began by retreating towards the stumps to a springy Jackman only in the third over when he should have been down the pitch to him. It took some more time before it took disaster to hit the fan. Dennis Amis played a Sunday cross-batter to Thomas, missed—then the inevitable—while David Smith slipped onto his stumps while playing Thomas again. That seemed pretty costly for a County in which Smith had

done most of the earth work in the preceding round and momentarily brought to mind that cardinal facet that ought to be paid more attention these days. In his days, Bradman used to make it a point to inspect every player's spikes before leading his team out in the field. Here, Smith had obviously forgotten the use of wearing ones with them on perhaps. Willis will recall Bradman in Australia this winter more often. Should



Alan Butcher—substantial contribution

And to climax the morning of despair for Willis' cadre Kalicharran went, too, snapped up sharply in the slips by Howarth off Knight. Such was the quickness of the movement on the part of the New Zealander that later, it did not seem too difficult to imagine how he must have scored his half a dozen Test hundreds for Kiwiland.

The last hopes of a revival and subsequent victory, thus by an elementary process of elimination

tell on the broad shoulders of Geoff Humpage. Normally, an exuberant cricketer with a fine sense of timing, he could have delivered the package but he opted for a search outside the off stump, nicked and was taken behind. Oliver ran himself out rather clumsily and Anton Ferreira became the victim of an untidy decision and after that Warwickshire just never looked like making it.

And while the teams changed roles much of the rhubarbing around the sanctuary revolved not around whether Surrey would or would not be able to make it but whether David Thomas would to Australia. He had bowled particularly well here, left-handed and over the wicket fast bouncy and greatly uncomfortable to negotiate. He had reduced the opponents in the 13th, 15th and 17th overs and in the specific length his wickets of Smith, Amis and Humpage had come off at the expense of only one run. And not without reason was Denis Compton too, impressed, he was to later name him as the Man of the Match.

But you bet that among the staunchest of Warwickshire present at the ground there had been whinnings of 'Oh but you should have seen it we had won the toss which sounded quite stupid when you consider that most of Warwickshire's men had succumbed to bad batting and the atmospheric advantages were much less—the marginally moving ball proves so—than what is normally expected of a September morning. And about the 10 o'clock starts, too, there had been no muffled protests but that was born out of the players' own lethargy to ensure faster overs during the day. Earlier, they used to have 65 overs of batting per side, beginning the day's crossfire at 11 in the morning, now they start at 10 to bowl just 60 each!

Surrey began in right earnest and never did they look like flunking it. They were off to 115 by the 25th over for only one wicket's loss, that of Howarth's. The rain battered away to a further required 44 with Butcher moving on to 86 and Smith keeping his place safe to the extent of 28. And when Alan Butcher finally did hit Kalicharran down to the nursery at 5.12 p.m. it was all over.

But for once there were no pitch invasions, hero huggings and all you can make up after a pulling at the heart strings. The two batsmen came in as if leading their little pups out for a post prandial walk to the park and back. What was more, the sun was still shining.

But I gather that many of Warwickshire's roofers had, by the time of leaving, already reconciled themselves to the fact that the team that fields first almost always wins. How else could anyone explain that only twice were expectations reversed. Even the Law of Averages were after Warwickshire as one po-faced put it!

To commemorate the Asian Games, State Bank salutes the unknown and unsung sportsman.

The Marathoner



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Cricket's private army

GERALD PAWLE writes on Sir Julien Cahn, owner of a private cricket team much before Kerry Packer did his rounds

E·W SWANION has accurately described the activities of Sir Julien Cahn's XI as 'a modern cricket phenomenon without parallel'. Although country house cricket still survived with surprising vigour in the last decade before the Second World War, no reasonable comparison could be made between Sir Julien's promotions and the elegant, essentially amateur fixtures staged on such lovely grounds as Pelsham, Tolly Hill, and Hovingham at Marchiel and Holyport, or, for that matter, on my grandfather's ground at Widford in Hertfordshire, where intriguing local rules were observed and fielders would run in frenzied circles round a large walnut tree waiting to catch the ball as it bounced from branch to branch.

On these Elysian fields the cricket was often of the highest class, but the possibility of defeat rarely clouded the enjoyment of the match. Not so with Sir Julien whose teams, packed with Test players, were sent in to battle with orders to win by the largest possible margin, even against the most inferior opposition. In this task they were often hampered by their captain who, to quote Swanion's charming and generous understatement, was 'unblessed with any natural ability in the game', his bowling was 'inordinately slow and quite without intrinsic merit'. Into this extraordinary ménage a youthful all-rounder named T B Reddick found his way in 1940 on the demise of Aubrey Faulkner's School of Cricket where he and Ian Peebles had been on the staff. Tommy Reddick played with much success for Sir Julien until the War and although his subsequent career involved county cricket with Notts, a spell as chief coach at Old Trafford, and then a long and happy employment in South Africa, where he was widely regarded as the outstanding cricket coach of his time, a much travelled life brought him no experience quite so remarkable as his bizarre and demanding apprenticeship with the Cahn circus. In Cape Town over the years we often talked about those days. Now that Sir Julien Cahn's XI has become part of the mythology of the game Tom Reddick's reminiscences gave a striking picture of what might be described as sponsored country

house cricket.

Still in his teens, Reddick found himself a member of a distinguished and colourful band. 'Playing in most of the games were I C W ('Lofty') Newman, a tremendous batsman who often opened with the New Zealander Roger Blunt, and scored some 15,000 runs for Cahn; F Summers, of Richmond, a prodigious hitter who scored over 13,000; C S Dempster (New Zealand), C R Maxwell, who came straight from school at Brighton; Denis Morkel (South Africa), H R Murt, a quickish bowler who looked after Julien's wines and entertainment, and the Australian trio, Harold Mudge, Jack Walsh, and Vic Jackson. There were also R W V Robins, George Heane, later captain of Notts; Ian Peebles, and in the mid 1930s the South African fast bowler Bob Crisp.

'John Gunn was the team's umpire, and another Notts player, Tich Richmond, took a tremendous number of wickets for us. In the winter most of us were assigned to jobs in Sir Julien's vast business empire. I was one of the very few with an agreement, and finished up by managing 12 furniture shops in the South of England.' By the time Reddick joined the staff they had two first-class grounds to play their home matches on—Stanford Hall, Cahn's lavishly laid out estate near Nottingham and Loughborough Road ('the best wicket I ever saw'), closer to the city. 'Early in one game there,' said Reddick, 'a ball lifted while Sir Julien was batting—the only ball I ever saw behave unexpectedly in nine years. Immediately the groundsmen were summoned and a tremendous inquest was held on the spot.'

When Reddick first joined this remarkable retinue Sir Julien Cahn was in his middle forties. A frail figure of medium height, he was something of a dandy who wore exquisitely tailored suits and monogrammed silk shirts. When batting he used metal leg guards and he donned inflatable pads before facing fast bowling.

A teetotaler, he ate sparingly. Although he smoked innumerable cigars he invariably threw them away soon after lighting them. His lifestyle was impressive. A decidedly insecure horseman, this did not deter him from hunting, and he was in

turn Master of the Burton, the Woodland Pytchley, and the Fernie. It was estimated that hunting and cricket alone cost him at least £50,000 a year. He was capable of great generosity, lavishly supporting hospitals and charities, and on his home grounds he refused to take a gate. Collections went either to charity or to cricketers' benefit funds.

'I remember playing against the West Indians,' Reddick recalled. 'We lost two wickets quickly and the light was fading. Maxwell and I were ordered to stay there for half an hour so that a collection could be taken for Bill Voce, but we were up against Constantine and Martindale and I could not time them at all. All I could hear was the zfft zfft zfft as the ball passed me but Max hit these two out of sight and our jobs were safe for another day.'

'There were invariably hilarious for if anything he was a worse con than he was a cricketer. Assisted by the household electrician, he would attempt trick after trick and never quite get the sequence right. His favourite illusion, involving a bowl of disappearing goldfish, was a spectacular failure, but as the routine was conducted with the utmost solemnity it was irresistibly funny and was always cheered to the echo. Once Reddick gained a regular place in the side he became one of its most prolific rungetters, scoring over 1500 runs in three successive seasons—but you have no idea of the strain we played under.' Against Warwickshire in a roaring gale a ginger-haired bowler was swinging the ball fantastically. I was soon out and in came Maxwell, one of the most brilliant batsman wicketkeepers I have ever seen. 'Don't worry, Sir Julien,' he said as he left the pavilion, 'just leave it to me!' He was out immediately and we barely struggled past the hundred.

'Cahn sent for his right-hand man, Lofty Newman. 'Maxwell and Tom my Reddick will never play in my side again,' he ordered. Enraged by this unexpected defeat he then departed to Monte Carlo to try out a gambling system just bought.

'As it happened, he made some money and when he came back I went to Newman to find out the form. Had I really been sacked? Newman said he honestly didn't know. 'Just he low don't do anything don't say anything'.

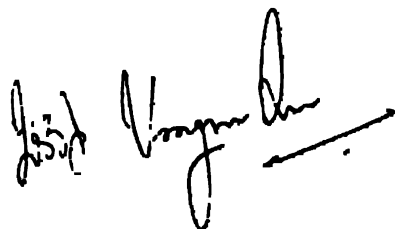
'When we arrived at Loughborough Road for the next match I kept out of sight while Julien tossed and then Lofty produced a blank team sheet. When they got to number 4 I thought my fate was sealed but Newman suggested me at number 5 and Cecil Maxwell at 6. Not a murmur! So Newman stepped back into the pavilion and shouted—'You're in!' This was absolutely typical of the kind of situation we had to cope with regularly.'

Courtesy: Winton Cricket Monthly

Dilip Vengsarkar comments:

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'Bhaskar the prime target

SUPRAKASH GHOSH examines what is really behind Magan Singh's recent denouncement of Bhaskar Ganguly and some other national players

INDIA'S failure at the Seoul tournament and the debacle of the Merdeka campaign have considerably lowered our prestige in Asian soccer circles. Even the organisers of the latter competition have decided not to invite India to the tournament next year.

It goes without saying that these sad experiences have shattered the confidence of our footballers who have spared no effort to improve their skills at the preparatory camps held so far. Therefore the mood of the nation is to rise above all our petty group politics and regional interests and once again try to inspire the sagging morale of the national team.

But the top officials of our football administrative bodies, though proclaimed well-wishers of the game, do not seem to be aware of all this. The diseases of regionalism and internecine group animosity, boy no less, are disappointing. The recent criticism of Bhaskar's comment by Mr Magan Singh is a case in point. Such actions only succeed in darkening the muddy water of Indian football and instilling doubts in the minds of the players as well.

The most important question haunting soccer fans today is: Mr Magan Singh's denouncement of Bhaskar—the present captain of the national team—is whether there is a deep-rooted conspiracy to breed disunity in the Indian team and thereby dislodge the number one goalkeeper of the country from the captaincy of the national eleven.

In fact, the question of captaincy has always been a bone of contention in the top echelons of the All India Football Federation. But strangely, by way of comparison, the rivalry among the players in this regard is less fierce. They may have kept clear of this delicate issue, but the self-appointed guardians of the game have never missed an opportunity to create an issue out of it. Bitter feuds have resulted even though the post of the captain in soccer is not as important as in some other games.

Charges of regionalism has been raised and the AIFI office bearers have taken great pains to prove that they are false and motivated. But seldom have their efforts met with success. The reason is simple: their defence has never been strong enough. Nor their actions have ever

corroborated with their statements.

At present Magan Singh's condemnation of Bhaskar Ganguly after the Indian team's humiliation at Kuala Lumpur can definitely be described as a case in point. He has criticised Bhaskar in such a way that it seems as if he was solely responsible for the debacle of the Indian team there.

The fact is that the whole team failed miserably to live up to the expectations. In every department—defence, midfield and offence—our performance had been incredibly poor and what made our defeat all the more disgraceful was our failure to score a single goal.

Why then should the blame be put



squarably on Bhaskar? Magan Singh has not only criticised Bhaskar for his poor performance, but has also demanded his replacement as the number one goalkeeper by Brahma-nand of Goa, though responsibility for our sorry showing rests on the shoulders of each and every member of the side.

Does this mean that Bhaskar will be deprived of the captaincy of the national team during the Asiad? None of the AIFI office bearers or people in close touch with the organisation would deny that there was an attempt within the federation to foil Bhaskar's selection as the skipper. In an interview with this correspondent published in *Sportsworld*, Ashok Ghosh, the AIFI secretary, admitted that a number of people were very much against Bhaskar's appointment as the leader of the team. He also disclosed that he along

with some other members of the technical committee had to try hard to persuade the anti-Bhaskar lobby to accept him as the skipper, though some stalwarts like the national coach P. K. Banerjee had no doubts at all about Bhaskar's ability to function with competence in that role. Yet, as learnt from reliable sources, the dissenters never accepted him as the captain.

Even more disquieting, there was a rumour that the pro-Bhaskar group managed to secure his captaincy only after an understanding was reached with the opposing officials. Apparently, Bhaskar would be retained as captain only till the Merdeka tournament regardless of how he fared in the meantime. It seemed that it was only a matter of time before the question of seniority would be raised and Harinder brought into the limelight.

In fact, Harinder was the candidate of the anti-Bhaskar group. But Harinder has figured more prominently on the injury list than on the players' list. Otherwise, he could perhaps have been the skipper during the Nehru Gold Cup itself.

Other sources close to the administrative body of the game think that the Magan Singh statement is just another step on the road to Bhaskar's ouster. In the words of a respected veteran of all India standing who wished to remain anonymous: 'You must have noticed that though Magan Singh has blamed some other players also, mostly belonging to Bengal, his main target has been nobody else but Bhaskar, as if he was solely to blame for the poor showing. They must have somebody else in mind like Harinder or Shabbir for the post of captain and will go to any lengths to fulfil their purpose.' He also added: 'I believe that once they can ensure Bhaskar's ouster, they will stop criticising the other players, because their criticism of these boys is in reality directed at Bhaskar. Bhaskar is their prime target—there is no doubt about that.'

Whatever might have been the case, Magan Singh's condemnation of Bhaskar and his demand for the goalkeeper's demotion to the number two position have annoyed a number of football veterans. 'This is nothing but a predetermined move to deny Bhaskar the captaincy of the national team during the Asiad. It must be stopped forthwith,' said an angry Chuni Goswami when asked to comment on it. He asked: 'Who is Magan Singh? He is only a cloth merchant. What does he know of football? It is only by virtue of being a 'chamcha' of Ziauddin that he has acquired so much power today. That is the only reason why I'm so concerned about what he says these days about our national players. He must be working according to a design. Otherwise, I would not have paid any attention to his opinions about football.'

MRF MONSOON RALLY

The drive to win

THE three sectors of the enigmatically flavoured MRF Monsoon Rally, conducted by the Calcutta Motor Sports Club covered a picturesque distance of 1,200 kilometers. The route was intelligently chosen. The rally ended in Calcutta in the early hours of the morning of Monday September 13—over 36 hours after the flag off of the first car from the Rabindra Sarobar Open Air Theatre on Saturday September 11.

This premier Eastern India motor rally was accorded the status of a national event. However certain happenings will soon be forgotten while a few unsavoury occurrences will not go into oblivion overnight. Before initiating the launching of bouquets and brickbats one would like to compliment the clerk of the course Arindam Ghosh the 1981 Karnataka 1000 winner for drafting out an enthralling route. At the same time the young organisers will have to admit and learn from some of this year's mistakes. Searching for non-existent scapegoats will not yield the desired results.

It is unfortunate, that the second phase of the competitive second sector had to be called off and instead the rallyists were given a "free-run" from Bata Jamda to Jamshedpur on the afternoon of Sunday, September 12.

Some might choose to target their potent missiles on the rally but it

should be borne in mind that motor rallying is coming of age, if not in the entire country then at least in the near-eastern States of India. This correspondent, who was a part of the Press contingent which accompanied the rallyists, was frequently a witness to hundreds of people assembling on certain stretches of the rally route. They came not out of ignorance but awareness. One should not bring them to book for gaping in sheer admiration and astonishment at the multi-coloured rally cars which rocketed out of their sight at regular intervals.

The members of the Fourth Estate were at the receiving end of a *tamasha* which found them making the first sector (Calcutta-Jamshedpur) entirely on their own. We completed this sector on our own expertise. Though the organisers had been kind in allotting a Press car, they bungled in not providing the Pressmen with the rally route and overlooked the fact that copies of the list of competitors were essential and should also have been issued. All that we knew was that 63 vehicles had been flagged off from the starting point.

However, the arrangements at the end of the first sector in the Jamshedpur suburb of Adityapur were excellent. It is here that the 'Parc Ferme' was situated and the cars were 'imprisoned' for a couple of hours. The organisation of the

second sector, however, was in a state of near collapse after a certain period of time. No one knew precisely what was happening, not even the marshalls 'stranded' at the time controls. Things reached such a stage that instead of the Press asking the marshalls as to what was cooking, it was the other way round.

From what this correspondent was able to gather, there was widespread discontent among the rallyists who were cheesed off at the way the rally was conducted in the second sector. One also heard that a few drivers had threatened to turn and head straight back to Calcutta. According to Ravi Singhania a national motor racing body steward the second part of the second sector should have started at 12 noon but instead "the first car started only at 1.30 p.m." It is learnt that marshalls were not given the closing time of controls.

A section of the motorcyclists were in a militant mood on their arrival back in Jamshedpur on Sunday evening. They were disgusted at a few incidents prominent among which was that Dead Time Control had been declared just a few kilometers away from the end of a particular sector. According to them, they were made to unnecessarily halt for an hour and this resulted in lethargy creeping in. One of the organisers at the Jamshedpur control point said "Giving them lunch and bringing them (the rallyists) down to Jamshedpur in a convoy has thankfully cooled the drivers."

While covering the first part of the second sector we halted at a place called Kotgar 118 kilometers from the Steel City. Here we encountered the crew of car number 6 who were trying to make the best of a bad situation. They had a mishap which had smashed their car's radiator and fan belt. The thoroughly deflated lot were made to cool their heels under none too inspiring conditions.

The weather gods were kind right through and except for a few spells of rain the rallyists were not troubled by the vagaries of the weather. Most of the roads were fairly good, particularly the Bombay Road (National Highway 6) which was covered during the first and third sectors. The rally received good support from the West Bengal Police who were stationed at strategic points in impressive numbers.

From the police, we come to the dacoits. Though one missed the opportunity of engaging them in an 'encounter' we nevertheless did intrude into their territory. This happened when we entered the infamous Lodhasuli jungle area. Quite alarmingly we came across a minor stony blockade immediately after our entry into the jungle. Our driver, Ashish Maitra, however, found it easy to skirt around the stones.

Not everyone had the blessings of Dame Luck. Quite a few either drop



VIEW 40

ped out or were disqualified. Of the original 63 competitors who had been flagged off from Calcutta only 42 could start off from Jamshedpur on the second sector. This number was further reduced to 35—22 cars and 13 two-wheelers—which were flagged off from Jamshedpur for the return trip to Calcutta. The Army Junga, car number 50, which many expected would do well was knocked out of the race a bare 148 kilometers from the start after an accident.

This rally was run at a fantastic pace throughout. The drivers took up the challenge of a tough route with a vengeance. They put in everything to come out on top as Arindam Ghosh commented, "we had such a fast race and yet there were no major casualties."

The successful completion of the rally is, without doubt, a feather in the CMSC cap. There is a distinct possibility that the next rally will rope in a much more substantial sponsorship from business houses. Now that it has been proved that a tough rally can be held in the eastern region, the organisers expect the leading drivers of the other centers to come and have a bash. This rally must surely be a milestone in the history of motor racing in Eastern India, of this, one has no doubt.

Results

FOUR-WHEELERS

1st	Bharat Patekh R Jindal Sujit Roy
2nd	Vijay Goenka Kiran Asif Ali R Agarwal R Tibrewal
3rd	Nani Gopal Chanda Ratan Sinha Dipankar Datta Tarit Roy
4th	Karanbir Singh Rishi Kumar Gaurave Swarup

TWO-WHEELERS

1st	Sushanta Karmakar Jayanta Das
2nd	Biswanath Saha Sanjoy Seal

L P SAHI

Track fever hits Goa

WHEN the black and white chequered flag signalled a set of five motorcyclists, clad in race regalia, off with a deafening roar from souped up engines sans silencers in the "Renn Carls Monsoon Race" at Ratna, it heralded the birth of a new sport in Goa. And if the flood of



Two enthusiastic contestants race round the bend to rousing cheers from the Sunday crowd

entrants for the Independence Day event was any yardstick, Motor Sports replete with spine-chilling thrills and daredevilry had made its debut.

Open to mobikes and cars the "Renn Carls Garage" race-cum-rally—the first of the kind in this territory—certainly proved no cake walk. The circuit mapped out by the organisers, Rennie Abreu and his German buddy Carl (both race enthusiasts), comprised an assortment of hair pin bends, water logged dirt track, highway and steep slopes.

It was an eight kilometre lap of sheer hell selected to test the grit and skill of competitors as also the sturdiness of their vehicles. In addition, a heavy monsoon downpour on the eve of the race only worsened matters, forcing organisers to hastily empty truckloads of rubble to "re-pave" stretches of washed away *kutchra* track.

Braving a mid-morning drizzle the large Sunday crowd let off a thunderous cheer as the ten motorcyclists were flagged off. Classification being no bar, motorbikes of various makes, such as Yezdi, Rajdoot, Enfield, Triumph 500, BSA Falcon 50, vied with one another for top honours in the two wheeler section. For two-wheeler there were two races—a 3-lap (24km) "elimination" run and the 5 lap (40km) grand finale. Four-wheeler had to compete in a 5-lap (40km) event.

As expected it was Herman Abreu astride the powerful Triumph 500 who rode home victorious in the 5-lap race covering the 40 km distance in 52 minutes 13½ seconds. Earlier Abreu also won the 3 lap race.

Poised on his powerful 500cc machine, Abreu skilfully coordinated body movement and speed to manoeuvre his bike on the treacherous curves, while gunning his machine on the straights to stay way ahead of the others. However, had the two Enfield "Bullets" and a Yezdi—bikes which may have rendered some challenge to the TR500 on the highway—not come a cropper, Herman would certainly have been

hard put to maintain his lead. Both riders of the Bullets took a bad toss when they slammed into a compound wall on a right-angled corner. Luckily they escaped with minor bruises.

The encounter for cars regaled wayside watchers. Flagged off at 30 seconds intervals, drivers fired engines and slid into gear to take off at tremendous speed round the first bend for a 5-lap stint of the tough circuit. The entrants included several vehicles of foreign make, VW, Vauxhall, DKW, Mercedes pitted against the Indian Mahindra Diesel Jeep, Fiats and Standard Gazels. Consequently, it was the Mahindra Jeep driven by Phillip Valadares who sped across the finishing line bagging the "Renn Carls Garage" shield and a cash award of Rs. 500. Valadares slammed his foot on the gas pedal and kept it there from the moment the starting flag waved him off.

The tight turns of the track were definitely brutal on tires, brakes and drivers. But Valadares dare-devil nerve saw him through the full 5-lap (40km) clocking a winning time of 46min 34 secs.

A vehicle that was a hot favourite for the top position—the DKW front-wheel drive driven by Antonio and Kevin—had to back out of the race after the engine stalled. Some miscreants had apparently tampered with the open contact points of the engine while the car lay idle awaiting the flag off. Yet another casualty was a Standard Gazel which completed the course minus the front hood—to bag a consolation prize for the hardest trier.

But motor-racing is dangerous—it says so on the entrance ticket to any major Grand Prix. Yet, the sport shall thrive for sports sake. As affirmed Phillip Valadares, winner of the four-wheeler event, "It isn't so much the prize money, which in this race was grossly inadequate, but the thrill of racing for sport that attract participants. Yet one has to spend much to prepare a car for a race or rally and any sort of sponsorship would be welcome."

LESLIE ST ANNE

"Now, as the dust settles, it's time to be honest about the World Cup time to pass judgement on Spain '82, look ahead with increasing concern to Colombia '86... and consider how to save the finals in 1990"—*Keith Radnedge*

"And now where do we turn next? To Colombia? To Bogota, that city of criminals and cripples where Bobby Moore was set up, and where you are likely to have the watch stolen off your wrist before you're even out of the airport? I don't think so"—*Brian Claville*

"There is an awful, grinding inertia at the top of international sports bodies which seems to mean that once a man has got to the top, however unsuitable he may be the only way you can get rid of him is by death, senility or bringing in the Third World to redress the balance of the Old"—*World Soccer*

"It is my firm belief that income tax will be abolished on the same day Scotland win a major honour in football"—*Alex Gordon*

"Zoff himself, at the age of 40 defied so many cynics with a calm, assured presence which formed the bedrock of his team's success. But the beauty of the side was their dash, panache, even impudence and the very embodiment of that play was Conti. The new spirit of Italy was the spirit of Conti"—*Derick Allsop*

"When Bearzot announced his side to confront West Germany in the final many Italian hearts sank. No Antonioni. The guiding light was gone"—*World Soccer*

"Lazio favourite Vincente D'Amico pushed

open the door and started long and hard at the party across the hall. Champagne corks were popping and his teammates were laughing and shouting. He didn't know what was happening... the World Cup triumph had prompted an amnesty for those involved in the 1979 betting and bribes scandal"—*World Soccer*

"Yes, I regret not being able to play a part in the World Cup. It was very bitter when I realised I wouldn't be able to go to Spain. But I have to thank them all. If they hadn't won the World Cup then this amnesty would never have come into effect"—*Bruno Giordano* after the announcement of amnesty



"If we had the choice none of us might have been here, and this run might give some people the idea that they can call the tune like this again and make us run"—*Sebastian Coe* on the Heinz British Games at Crystal Palace.



"All sports traditionally have to change, for instance in horse racing the naked eye couldn't see every finish, so they brought in the cameras. If two umpires are accepted by both countries they can have no reason to complain, and will accept mistakes as a human fault. In fact, in that case you accept it as bad luck"—*Imran Khan* supporting the suggestion that neutral umpires should be appointed

"It seems a fact in Test cricket all round the world that however well-intentioned the umpiring is, a certain home-town bias creeps in. To win overseas, the visiting side probably has to be as much as 15 per cent better than their opponents"—*Henry Blofeld*.

"The reason for his appointment was simple: practically every previous Warwickshire player with three Christian names who has played for England has gone on to lead the side, so R.G.D. Willis just had to get the nod to live up to historical precedent"—*Jonathan Rice*

"Where's your dog?" "Dog? What do you mean, Mr. Douglas?"

"...and he was seen without a stick"—*Christopher Green*. J. W. H. T. Douglas and an umpire who wrongly declared him out. "...a very puzzling incident of low deck."

"Tortoise, I and cricketers have a laconic wisdom in common, an understanding of the futility of forever searching for lettuce, or forever trying to master the off-drive. Together we appreciate the need for a restful period, a time to forget all about being squashed by motor cars and Holding bumpers"—*Peter Roebuck*

"His (Mike Brearley) is as acute an intellect as any the game has known, but those who label him simply an intellectual fail to appreciate a warm humanity"—*John Arlott*



"Winning a million would be wonderful. But the Grand Slam. Now that's history-making"—*Martina Navratilova*.

"I think the biggest thing which hockey players in India suffer from is a lack of publicity"—*Asand Mandapaka*.

COUNT DOWN 9

Publicity failure

WE do keep getting accounts from time to time of how our athletes are training in coaching camps for the Asian Games. Is it not also time we got to know of how we are preparing for the opening ceremony on which the public appear to have pinned high hopes, judging from the sale of tickets?

The association of sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar with the ceremony has, no doubt, given it the prestige that it deserves. But with all due respects to Panditji, he had better be warned in time about the fiasco that was the opening ceremony of the World Cup Hockey Championship last December. Unimaginative preparations, delayed till it was too late, marred the show at Bombay. The Asiad '82 ceremony might be something as shoddy if they don't get going with the actual practice and rehearsals without the loss of another day.

Famous names like Ananda Shankar and that other noted choreographer Narendra Sharma are also going to be associated with the ceremony. But nobody seems to have a clear idea of what it will be like. Panditji is held in such high esteem that no one else will talk to the Press or even be bold enough to do anything else. One gathers that professional folk dancers from various States will be pressed into service and, therefore, it is assumed the choreographers have little to worry. But an opening ceremony at the Asian Games is not something like a stage performance in a

theatre. If this is all that the opening ceremony is going to be then it will hardly be one to remember. An opening ceremony at an international sports event should be a careful blend of physical culture, folk dance and music, with hundreds and thousands taking part in the spectacle out in the middle.

Little has been done to attract the foreign visitor, short films, eye-catching posters and attractive, well-written and expertly-produced literature should have started reaching other Asian countries long ago. Our missions abroad should have been pressed into service to advertise the event. But nobody appears to have cared to launch a drive of this nature or magnitude.

Every now and then Indian sportsmen have been going abroad on competition-cum-training tours. Each one of them should have been asked to carry publicity material and Appu souvenirs to be presented abroad to sportsmen against whom they competed and even to spectators. According to one official in the Asiad set-up, little publicity material was produced in time so there was no question of sending it abroad.

Selling tickets and filling up stadia is not all. The message is the important thing. If international events have failed to generate lasting interest or build up a sporting ethos in our

country in the past it is because of our failure on the publicity front. Every post office, railway station and airport should have advertised the event. Every public vehicle, train and aircraft should have carried stickers and other literature, and there should have been an intensive drive in schools not simply to sell tickets but to spread sports consciousness in the names of the Games.

Every other day we hear some Games bigwig or the other telling us the crores and crores are being spent on the Asian Games which are aimed at building up interest for sport in Indian youth, or something to the effect. But with the publicity department of the Special Organising Committee (SOC) regarded like poor relations of the set up at Pragati Maidan little meaningful work has been achieved in this direction.

Rather than an SOC official speaking on subjects that he knows little about the message of sport would be more effectively spread if a film of an old Indian sporting hero is shown to school children in the remote corners of the country or one in actual flesh and blood is sent to talk to the kids. There will be many old sporting heroes willing to do their bit for the cause if only someone who matters remembered them.

The message is all



Timekeepers to the Nation



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Timekeepers to the Nation

Regional round-up

DELHI

Manmeet excels in State T.T.

HIS head wrapped in a black "patka," Manmeet Singh strutted to the table. He meant business when he took on Nitin Puri in the men's singles final of the Delhi State Table Tennis Championships in the steamy St. Columbia's School hall. After 20 minutes of ruthless aggression he had added the State Title to his already bulging bag of trophies and crowns. Puri had been swept aside 21-8, 21-12, 21-18.

If the third game was flatteringly close for Puri, it was only because the ceremonies to receive the Chief Guest had upset Manmeet's concentration.

This season Manmeet looks very fit, having filled out handsomely from adolescence to early manhood. While this biological process was taking place, Manmeet has also perfected the weapon of the backhand smash which he executes with amazing suddenness from both near the table and at varying distances from it. There is also great variety of spin.

In the semi-finals earlier, Manmeet had made short work of Sunil Vaswani, winner of the St. Columbia's Tournament, in three straight games while Puri had put it across Manjit Dua 22-20, 14-21, 21-14, 21-18. Earlier, junior Rajan Vaish had stolen the thunder with victories over Anil Joshi in the fourth round and fifth seed Munish Magrath in the pre-quarters.

Vaish's giant-killing run came to an end when he was beaten by Puri in the quarter-finals, but not before he had taken the fourth seeded senior to five games. Vaish, winner of the St. Columbia's Junior Title, went down to Rajat Kumar in the boys' singles semi-finals, 21-15, 14-21, 17-21, 18-21. Rajat went on to win the boys' final, beating Sanjay Modi in a fight remarkable for pace and aggressive intent.

Left handed Tina Sudan became the State women's champion, brushing aside the challenge of Chanchal Malik in the final. It was all over in a matter of minutes. Chanchal had earlier created a stir by beating top seeded Meena Bora in the semi-finals.

Gurcharan's great job

THE Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association broke fresh ground when they organised a three week coaching camp for its junior cricketers at Srinagar under the supervi-

sion of Gurcharan Singh, the Cricket Board coach for North Zone. Kashmir has singularly lacked success at any level of the game, and one hopes the interest generated by the camp will do good to the game in the State.

Sudarshan Mehta, a right-handed middle order batsman, was adjudged the "most outstanding" among the "campers" under Gurcharan, who also found in Narinder Pal Singh, a highly promising "Bedi-type" left arm slow spin bowler. In fact, so well is he rated that if only Maninder Singh of Delhi had not been operating in the north, Narinder Pal might well have played for his zonal team. A glutton for work, the lad's long distance training runs could do credit to a marathon runner.

Another service Gurcharan has done to cricket in the State is his analysis of the drawbacks. The Board's coach is reported to have pinpointed the lack of good equipment—this, ironically, in the very home of Indian willow—good wickets, both for matches and practice, and the absence of coaching activity. It was at Gurcharan's instance that the camp was shifted from Srinagar Stadium to the Amar Singh Club ground. The State has a few NIS trained coaches, but these men, one learns with regret, have not been able to see eye to eye.

However, now that the lesser known cricketing States have shown an interest to improve with the help of the affluent Board of Control, one

hopes their standards will be better in the near future. The lesser known members have as much right on the Board as the others. Happily, the Board has itself been operating on this principle for some time now.

Punjab perfect with the stick

PUNJAB teams monopolised the later stages of the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hockey Tournament, which this year was played at the Delhi Public School ground because Delhi's hockey headquarters, Shivaji Stadium, has been reserved for the Asian Games women's hockey tournament. After a briskly fought goalless final, JCT Mills, Phagwara, and the impressively named Indian Maharajas from Jullundur were declared joint winners. This announcement was not received kindly by the spectators who had earlier been told that the tie breaker rule would be resorted to in the event of a stalemate.

The way the JCT Mills hockey team has come up, it now commands the same respect as its more famous soccer outfit. In the semi-finals earlier, the young JCT side had eliminated the redoubtable Border Security Force in the tie breaker (8-5) after the teams had failed to score in the normal playing time. Goalkeeper Rakesh made three very good saves. The newly formed Maharajas

Action from the final of the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial hockey tournament



brought to an end the run of successes of Rock Rovers, Chandigarh, scoring a goal in each half. BSF themselves had advanced to the semi-finals with a tie-breaker win (7-4) over Northern Railway. Rock Rovers shocked Punjab Police in the quarter-finals, outside-left Brij Pandit getting the only goal of the match 17 minutes into the second half.

Mata Sundri College were tops among the women. They rallied splendidly in the second half of the final against Janki Devi Mahavidyalaya. Trailing by a goal at half time, they came back to score twice after the interval to win the tournament, centre-forward Ranjit scoring the match-winner barely two minutes before the final whistle.

A CORRESPONDENT

! CALCUTTA

! Harrowing experience

THE most prestigious event of the Calcutta monsoon racing season is the Monsoon Cup. The event was scheduled for Wednesday September 1 but had to be postponed because the employees of the RCTC decided to go on a lightning strike. These strikes are detrimental to the sport and it has become a habit with the employees to press their demands on the eve of a big race. They know very well that this is the best opportunity to hold the Royal Calcutta Turf Club to 'ransom' and should be severely penalised. Nevertheless, the Monsoon Cup was finally held a week later and the race which was open to horses in Classes II and III attracted five runners.

Aureus which had only a few weeks earlier won the Bengal Area Cup was carrying the top weight and was one of the principal contenders. Punters did not have an easy job choosing the winner as Minto, Major General, Harrow with Robin Corner astride and Thrifty Allan carrying a feather weight on its back all had a good chance of winning.

Thrifty Allan ridden by the young Rodney Rodrigues was the first out of the stalls in the 2000 metre race. The five-year old gelding led the field, a clear three lengths from Harrow. Coming around the bend Harrow could not sustain and Thrifty Allan past the post followed by Aureus with Harrow coming in third.

It was a great achievement for the ageing Harrow. One must bear in mind that ace jockey Robin Corner had steered Thrifty Allan to victory in the Independence Cup, but, instead chose to ride Harrow for the Monsoon Cup. Obviously, the jockey had pinned tremendous hope on the older horse. In fact, Harrow had been working well earning him the

comments "very fit", "in good condition" and "in fine trim".

The Monsoon Cup over, Corner rode his mount into the unsaddling enclosure. It was the last time Harrow had been unsaddled. His heart stopped. Cardiac failure, they say. It collapsed. Tears on faces. And then Beep Beep "And now for the sixth race of the afternoon."

DEREK O'BRIEN

Second school for table tennis

THE table tennis wave that swept through the city during the 33rd World Championship has left its remnants. Thanks to the Bengal Table Tennis Association, which is keenly pursuing its venture in fostering the game throughout the State. The move has paid rich dividends and this is evident by the abundance of talent from the districts.

The BTTA had streamlined the training programme. First, it established a training school at the Rabin Dr. Sarobar in South Calcutta way back in 1976. This school was, in fact, the first of its kind in the country and later some other associations also followed suit. The school which gives intensive coaching has attracted many juniors and among them some talented players have been identified. But the BTTA's enlightened programme could not be propagated due to the lack of space and other essential facilities which were just not there. This was cause enough for concern. Then again, the inaccessibility of enthusiasts from the north and central parts of the city to the school in the south dampened its prospects. The BTTA had to get rid of this bottleneck as quickly as possible.

Recently, the association was fortunate to find a place to set up its second training school in the heart of the city. This centre, however, is exclusively meant for students of the game between the age of 10 and 16 and is jointly-sponsored by the BTTA and the Calcutta University Institute, which is famous for its services rendered to the student community in both sport and culture for over ninety years. The space provided accommodates three tables for practice. The trainees under competent coaches are being put through a syllabus of systematic training. The interested juniors are taking full advantage of this centrally-located venue.

The students joining the two-year course at the centre will have to pay a negligible amount as a 'token' for the coaches. During the training period the coaches will scout the potentials for further grooming at the Khudiram Anusilan Kendra

Playing for a cause

THE football fraternity has been very sympathetic towards Sonali Shibir, a junior team which recently met with a tragic incident in which ebullient striker Achintya Pal and his coach lost their lives and injuring almost all the players. Charity matches in and outside Calcutta were played to meet medical and other necessities of the crippled Shibir boys.

Recently, the State Bank of India Office Managers Department (Jeevan Deep) organised an inter-branch football competition. Prior to the finals between Tata Centre and IOA section main branch a friendly match took place in which many players of yesteryears were seen in action. There was Sanat Sett, Sunil Bhattacharjee, Santa Mitra, Bidyut Mazumdar and a few others who volunteered to display some of their techniques.

The final was well contested but the score-sheet was blank. The chief guest was veteran Sailen Manna, while general manager (operation) Bharat Bhattacharjee was the president. In the midst of over a thousand football enthusiasts there were several high officials of the SBI. The organisers pooled in donations in five boxes from the crowd which will be handed over to Sonali Shibir Club. There were three prizes for the winners, runners-up and the best player. The first award was given by Mrs Olga Rodrigues, who is known for her contribution to women's basketball and hockey.

SUBHASH SARKAR

BANGALORE

Dicey game

A WAR of gigantic proportions and consequences was fought all because of this game. No racking of the brains is needed to guess the war and the game-Mahabharata and the game of dice which led to the downfall of the Kuravas. Well, this game which is generally associated with gambling has been introduced as a sport of intelligence for the first time in Karnataka.

Priyadarshini Chitrakala Vrinda, a cultural and sports association, has plans of conducting a dice tournament in the first week of October. The three types of events in dice—single or odd, double or even and game of nine carry awards for winners and runner-up. The entry fee is Rs 2 for an event and both sexes can take part in the events.

Madras champions

IN the Inter-University Chess Championships which were held at

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Mangalore, Madras University emerged the winners with a convincing victory over Bombay, whom they beat by three matches to one, to finish with 18 1/2 points. National player Yusuf Hassan, played a major role in Bihar securing the second place with 17 1/2 points. They drew with last year's holders Nagpur in the last round.

Pilling par excellence

It was Philip Pilling's tournament all the way through. He played like a true champion and finished with a four round total of 294, four strokes ahead of Rothas Singh of New Delhi. Brandon D Souza finished third with a total of 301.

A record attendance by golf enthusiasts were treated to some exciting golf by the top names in the game. Pilling played like a well oiled machine and finished the first half one under par and played the return journey on par. An eagle on the 17th saw him three shots ahead on the 17th hole, but he ran into rough weather when on the 18th hole, his second shot landed on the band trap and he dropped two more strokes on this hole to finish one under par for the round. The prizes were distributed by the popular captain M S R Ramchandran.

[MADRAS]

Mini Sholavaram

THE All India Motor Race Meet at Sholavaram conducted every March has earned a name for itself as the premier motor racing meet in the country. But the Madras Motor Sports Club who conduct this annual event, wanted to give motorists and two wheeler riders another chance to test their machines. Hence the idea of the mud term race was born and the MMSC organised it on September 5. The "phoren" connection was missing, but there were some notable outstation entries from Coimbatore, Bangalore and Pune. Sponsored by M R T, the meet was a success insofar as it provided an opportunity for young and untutored drivers to test their skill and that of their machines. But a very exciting showpiece if predictably, did not get off the ground. In fact, not unexpectedly, there were more spills than thrills. Kamlesh Patel of MMSC claimed the India Radiators Trophy for the Formula Indian cars while A L Jayakumar blazed to victory in the motor cycles event for the Chaimin Challenge Trophy.

Incentive

BEFORE there was, however, provided in the Nutrine Super Star All India Table Tennis Tournament



Chandrakant Pandit receiving the Buchi Babu trophy which his team Matatal won

for juniors, conducted by the Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Players' Welfare Association on September 4 and 5. There have been prize money tournaments for seniors, but this was the first time in the country that prize money tournament was held for juniors. It was a laudable scheme and the TITPW deserves every praise for their brainwave. With all the top junior stars in the country responding to the invitations, table tennis of a good standard was seen and the competition was keen. Obviously the total prize money—nearly Rs 5000—provided the incentive. Arunvoti Barua, studying in Delhi but representing Assam kept his reputation as the country's top ranking junior player when he won the title and the Rs 1000 first prize with an emphatic straight games victory over Vasant Bharadwaj of Karnataka.

Buchi Babu tourney proves a point

RATHER than Matatal Sports Club's victory in the Buchi Babu cricket tournament final, the talking point of the week has been how INCA President's XI—a virtual state side—lost the match to them. Few events have caused more consternation in cricket circles than the fact that Tamil Nadu cricket has come to such a sorry pass that the home team batsman—including among them are Test and Zonal players—could not muster up a total of 231, against bowling that was not more than club class, despite the fact that Uday Joshi and Yograj Singh were among the bowlers.

Matatal have won the trophy every time they have participated here. Initially in fact, the matches they were involved in were so hopelessly one sided in their favour

that the Bombay outfit did not even want to come here to participate in this prestigious tournament. Then a few years back the INCA started fielding a team which was virtually representative of the state side. Still, Matatal could not be subdued, not surprisingly, once those playing for the club included Brijesh Patel, Lknath Solkar, Ashok Mankad, Parthasarathy Sharma and Dhruaj Patsana. However, at least the matches were not as lop sided as before.

This year Matatal because of various reasons were without Patel, Solkar, Sharma and Patsana. Only Mankad remained and the side was reinforced by the inclusion of Ghulam Parkar. Still the INCA President's XI seemed strong enough to defeat them and it was quite justifiable that city cricket fans thought that INCA would win the trophy. More so, when medium pacer T A Sekhar and Venkataraghavan, bowled really well on a plumb batting track to restrict Matatal to 230.

We were to be badly disillusioned. One by one, the cream of state batting committed hara kiri against bowling which was good, but then so was the pitch. And however good the bowling was there is no way that a side starting with Srikanth and V Sivaramakrishnan and continuing with T L Srinivasan, M O Parthasarathy, A Jabbar, Bharat Reddy, I Sivaramakrishnan and Venkataraghavan should be dismissed for 169. Yet this is precisely what happened. Once the lead was conceded there was little that the home team could do to come back against a Bombay side with a professional outlook. The outcome of the Buchi Babu final does not augur well for Tamil Nadu cricket and there is already talk of thorough overhauling of the state side.

PHATAPALLI MANI

The problems of being Bedser

The twin Bedser brothers—Alec and Eric bore striking resemblances. They looked so much alike that even their parents often had to try hard to know immediately "who is who?" They had the better of all fellow cricketers, spectators, officials and also umpires.

There are many amusing stories about the twin but the following one is worth re-narrating.

The brothers were playing for a club in an exhibition match. Eric, known to be the better batsman of the two played like a champion in this match and stayed long enough at the wicket.

As his wonderful innings ended, brother Alec came in his place. Alec was preparing to take his guard when the bewildered umpire took a hard look at him and then signalled him to the pavilion.

Alec, however, remained unconcerned about all this. He took his stance even without taking a guard from the umpire and was ready to face the bowling. The umpire's anxiety grew further thinking that he was being cheated by the dismissed batsman. He walked up to Alec and said, "There is no second chance in this match. Alec was naturally both surprised and amused and said, "What are you talking about?"

"Do not for heaven's sake, be over-strict! You went out last ball and how the hell can you come to bat again?"

asked the enraged umpire "You are wrong" quietly replied Alec saying that the previous batsman was his brother. This did not satisfy the umpire. Eric had to be summoned to the ground before the man in white long coat allowed the game to resume.

leagues started laughing. Compton went on showering praise for nearly five minutes before one of them rose and whispered into Compton's ear. "You are caught on the sticky wicket. This is not Alec, you are congratulating but his brother, Eric. Compton blushed and

good stroke and ran more than half way down without looking at the fielder. Pat, a brilliant fielder, picked up the ball and banded to wards wicket keeper Studdwick, an apple, instead of the ball. 'Sturdy' himself excited, mistook the apple for the ball. He grabbed it and

wickets are down. Can the umpire detect the interval?"

A: Yes, the rule is absolutely clear. It says, "If at the agreed time for the tea interval nine wickets are down, play shall continue for a period not exceeding 30 minutes, or until the innings is concluded."

Q: Five minutes remain for the drink interval when a wicket falls. Can the umpire call for drinks immediately?

A: Yes, the umpires can do so. It is done with a view to saving time.

Q: An innings ends for play is stopped within 30 minutes of the drink interval. Will the drink interval take place on schedule?

A: There will be no drink interval in that session.

Q: What procedure the umpire should adopt when he notices that the fielding side is wasting time?

A: All kinds of time wasting are unfair.

(i) In the event of the captain of the fielding side wasting time or allowing any member of his side to waste time, the umpire, if the bowler's end shall adopt the following procedure:

(a) Caution the captain of the fielding side and also the other umpire. (b) Repeat the caution as the final warning. (c) Captain of the batting side should be communicated about the occurrence during the interval and (d) inform the governing body about the incident so that it may take appropriate steps.



Both of them stood 6ft 2 in and weighed just over 14 stones during their playing days. They were "terribly difficult to tell apart."

Alec bowled exceedingly well for Surrey against MCC in 1946. Denis Compton dashed into the Surrey dressing room to congratulate him. That was indeed excellent bowling, Alec. Compton told him and the big Surrey man wore a big grin on his face. The col-

dashed out of the dressing room.

Here is another amusing story. This is not of the Bedser brothers but of Pasty Hendren who was as popular, if not more, as Alec.

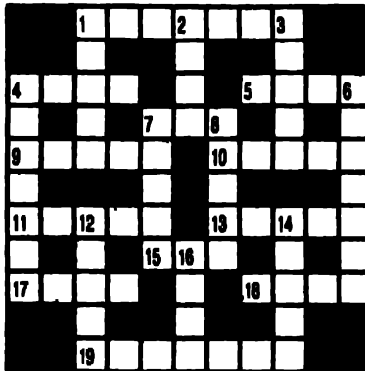
Once a young boy named Myers ran into splendid form and was in his nine ties in a match against the MCC. He became nervous as a colt and began doing impossible things to get nearer the coveted hundred. Myers made a

whipped off the bails while the youngster was still much outside the crease. There was a roar all over. The umpire hesitated before realising that it was an apple and not the ball. While the umpire admired Pat's smartness, the boy heaved a sigh of relief and went on to achieve his life's ambition of scoring a century against the MCC team.

Here are some problems.

Q: Tea time is reached when nine

165



ACROSS

- 1 One of the top all-rounders today and also a Kiwi (1, 6)
- 4 What the West Indians are also specialists in (4)
- 5 This Park, a cricketing venue in New Zealand, has something in common with Calcutta's Test centre (4)
- 7 The shape in which Larwood placed his leg side fielders when bowling 'Bodyline' (3)
- 9 A former fiancée of Jimmy Connors, now married to a British tennis star (5)
- 10 Cricket bowler who worked with Hogg in tandem against England in 1978-79 (5)
- 11 Players change sides at the— a game in badminton (3, 2)
- 13 English cricket writer who has cobblers implement in the middle (5)
- 15 A Loxton and a Maneckshaw have this in common, returns (3)
- 17 Much between running between wickets depends on a— (4)
- 18 Former West Indian cricketer of the Fifties has a circle in the middle (4)
- 19 Sir Garfield holds the record for the highest number of runs in an innings— (2, 5)

DOWN

- 1 Australian tennis star Tony, who also figured in the Wimbledon semis some time back (5)
- 2 Versatile court games player who was at one time the squash champion and also the tennis champion (4)
- 3 Not a beginner for a woman champion swimmer (5)
- 4 Footballer Puskas with his surname first and first name second (1, 6)
- 6 Directional trophy in English cricket (3, 4)
- 7 Pakistani hockey official who has an alternative in the middle (4, 1)
- 8 A table tennis shot and a meat preparation in plural have the same name (5)

- 12 Venue of the very first Asian Games (5)
- 14 Former Somerset cricketer and a contemporary of W G Grace (5)
- 16 Masculine ending for a black American tennis player (4)

Excellent : 22-20, Good 19-17,

Fair 16-14

Question box

Shubhendu Shekhar Prasad, Imphal

Q What is the world record for the highest number of catches and who is the holder?

A The record is 120 catches in 114 Tests by M C Cowdrey of England
Sunil Dutt, Jaipur

Q When did M A K Pataudi make his Test debut and what were his scores in that match?

A In the third Test of England at Delhi in 1961-62, M A K Pataudi made his Test debut and he scored 13 runs
Sushanta Chakraborty, Digboi

Q Please give me the bowling figures of Rajinder Singh Goel and P K Shivalkar in the Ranji Trophy

A Rajinder Goel in 105 Ranji matches has captured a record number of 526 wickets in 25,553 balls 1,394 maiden overs at an expense of 9,135 runs On 44 occasions he got five or more wickets in an innings and 14 times 10 or more in a match P K Shivalkar of Bombay in 72 Ranji matches has bowled 20,631 balls 1,253 maiden overs, conceded 6,278 runs and captured 359 wickets with five or more wickets in an innings on 26 occasions and 10 or more in a match on nine occasions

M Narasimiah, Madras

Q What is meant by 'out, Mankaded'? What is the procedure of getting a batsman out Mankaded?

A When the non-striking batsman at the bowler's end is found out of his crease, while backing up before the ball is delivered by the bowler, the non-striking batsman is legitimately run out by the bowler, before delivering the ball Mankad had run out a batsman in this fashion for the first time and hence it is said run out Mankaded

SOLUTION 164

S V R O N S M

O R I O O R
C T O N N U R L

H R E F S Y D W
O O L L I S

M I N J C B I

Pritpal Singh Bhatta, Jamshedpur.

Q What were the scores by Sunil Gavaskar in Tests against England in 1971?

A He scored four and 53 at Lord's, 57 and 24 at Manchester and six and zero at The Oval

Ghulam Jilani, residence not mentioned

Q Who is the cricketer who played for England and India in Tests?

A Iftikhar Ali Khan Pataudi

Q Where did India play her first Test in England and where did England play her first Test in India?

A India played her first Test at Lord's in London and England played her first Test in India at Bombay

Devinder Paul Singh, Khem Karan (Amritsar), Dr B D Hyatt, Nasik

Q For how much time did Sunil Gavaskar bat for his 172 at Bangalore in 1981-82?

A Gavaskar took 708 minutes for his 172 at Bangalore against England in 1981-82

Q Name the manager of the Indian cricket team to England in 1959?

A Fateh Singh Gaekwad, popularly known as the Maharaja of Baroda
Subhasish Bhattacharjee, Raiganj; Kalyan Baruah Bui, Hoogrijan, Kaleem Khan, Paharpur

Q What are the complete Test records of M A K Pataudi and Ajit Wadekar?

A M A K Pataudi played in 46 Tests, 83 innings, was not out in three innings and made 2,793 runs at the average of 35.91 with six centuries, 16 fifties and seven zeroes, 203 not out being his highest score He was captain in 40 Tests Ajit Wadekar's record is 37 Tests, 71 innings, thrice not out, 2,113 runs, 143 being his highest score, 31.07 his average, one century, 14 fifties and seven ducks He led India in 16 Tests

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Unscramble the jumbles and find out names of famous sports or games

- 1 LAELBNT
- 2 SNIGRUF
- 3 CYRRAEH
- 4 NOTILBHA
- 5 ILSRBDAIL
- 6 GWNSLSTEIR
- 7 GINIKS
- 8 MTYCASSING
- 9 REAATK
- 10 NALDHALB

ANSWERS

- 10 HANDBALL
- 9 KARATE
- 8 GYMNASTICS
- 7 SKIING
- 6 WRESTLING
- 5 BILLIARDS
- 4 BATHLON
- 3 ARCHERY
- 2 SURFING
- 1 NETBALL

A. Mervyn Harvey played just one Test for Australia against England at Adelaide in 1946-47. He made 12 and 31.

Q Which Indian cricketer has scored the highest number of runs in first-class cricket?

A Sunil Gavaskar has the highest number of runs to his credit. His aggregate in first-class cricket, before embarking on the tour of England in May 1982 was 19,429 runs in 252 first-class fixtures.

Q When and where was the first Test between India and Pakistan played?

A. Pakistan and India first played each other at Delhi on October 16, 17 and 18, 1952, when India won by an innings and 70 runs

Q Could you please give me the details of all Test playing countries' lowest scores?

A Twenty-six by New Zealand 30 by South Africa (twice) 36 by Australia, 42 by India, 45 by England, 62 by Pakistan, 76 by West Indies and 158 by Sri Lanka are the lowest totals of the respective countries in Tests

Q Who has scored the maximum number of runs in first-class cricket matches?

Q. Would you please give me the scores of G R Vishwanath's batting in the 1976-77 series against New Zealand in India?

A Ten and 39 at Bombay, 68 and 103 not out at Kanpur and 87 and 17 at Madras

Q When and where did Madan Lal make his Test debut? How many runs did he score in the match?

A First Test against England at Manchester in 1974 when he made 2 and 7 and captured 2 for 56 and none for 39

2. Schaum

When two players face one another at rubber bridge the system discussion is usually brief. "Strong no-trump, double for take-out, Ace from Ace-King" is a typical inquiry. Sometimes I wonder whether a reference to signals should be added. "Does a high card from you show encouragement, or an even number of cards in the suit?" Fashions change. Twenty years ago encouragement or discouragement was all the rage. Then came a big move towards distributional signals. Perhaps the right solution is a compromise, but then judgment (by both players!) becomes paramount. This was a recent outburst from teams play.

♠ 64
♥ A 75
♦ 8 J 2
♣ A 10 7 6 4

♠ K Q 9 8 5
♥ 8
♦ K Q 7 6 4
♣ 5 3

W N E S

♠ A J 7 3 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ 10 9 5
♣ 9 8

♠ 10
♥ Q J 10 9 6 2
♦ A J
♣ K Q J 2

At love all this was the bidding at one table

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1 ♣	pass	3 ♣
4 ♠	1 ♣	5 ♣	pass
pass	pass		

Against five hearts West led ♠ K and East followed with the seven. Encouraging partner! West now assumed that his partner had four spades and continued the suit. Now it was all over. After a trump finesse lost South was able to claim the rest of the tricks, with his king Jack of diamonds going away on dummy's long club.

Well, who was to blame in spite of the lack of agreement on signalling methods? East or West? Of course, West could have switched to $\diamond K$ at trick 2, but he was convinced that there was

Last week's quiz. As South, vulnerable against not, you held ♠K4 ♥AK974, ♦73, ♣K876. East dealt and opened one ♠ade which you overcalled with two-nearts although a double might have its advocates. Your partner bid two-spades and East confused the issue with a call of four-spades. In the modern style your partner's bid has suggested a high card (rather than a distributional) raise to three-nearts, although he may have better things in mind. With good defensive values and for a vulnerable overcall, a poor suit, I would suggest a double. Consolation awards for a pass.

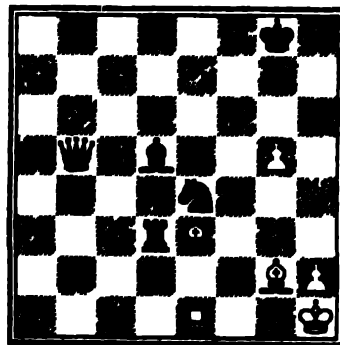
This week's quiz. As South at love all you hold ♠ Q 7, ♥ A Q 8 7 4, ♦ J 8 3, ♣ 8 4 2 West deals and opens one-diamond! North overcalls with one-spade and East bids two-clubs. What action, if any, do you take?

For some time I have been thinking about a short series featuring the greatest players from the USA, and there could hardly be a better moment to start it than now. In chess terms the independence of the United States was proclaimed by Paul Morphy's triumphal visit to Europe in 1858, during which he proved himself without any doubt to be the best player in the world. If the European masters had been unimpressed by his victory in the First American Chess Congress in New York the previous year, they were convinced when Morphy won his match with Adolf Anderssen in Paris by 7-2 with 2 draws. Anderssen had emerged the victor in London in 1851 and was recognised as a brilliant tactician, but he was apparently helpless against the young American star. Morphy was a genius at chess, and his understanding of the game put him further ahead of his

contemporaries than anyone except Philidor a century earlier. The pieces seemed to acquire phenomenal power when conducted by Morphy especially in open positions. He showed that it was not quick development that was the most important but harmonious and full development upon that depended both the successful launching of attacks and being able to put up solid defence against enemy threats. These positional methods revolutionised chess ideas and were the basis of the theories which Steinitz later elaborated. Having overcome the best opposition Europe could offer, Morphy returned home to the USA and gradually retired from the competitive scene. For chess players the remainder of Morphy's short life (he died in 1854 at the age of 47) was a tragedy – and it is not surprising that he is often referred to now as the pride and sorrow of chess. I shall give a typical example of Morphy's play next week.

Competition 6537 Solution next week

Black



Write

Black to play. How did the game finish? Grade 3

Solution to 0530 (Tal – von der Wieh, Wijk aan Zee, 1982) (1h30r/1p12p/1q1P12p3c2p2P1K3-/2004/3P1P/GR1K – White to play) The former World Champion caused Black's immediate resignation by means of 24. Kt x Pch. If 24. P x Kt, then 25. Q x Kt, P x Q 26. R – KK3ch. K – R2 27. B. Q3ch enforces mate

Problem No 1203 Solution next week

A. J. Flak (First Prize American Chess Bulletin 1913)

(K7/R2a2P/3p1p2/1R1P1a3/CDN/3

rin1 – 10 white men; 0 black)
 White to play and mate in two moves

White to play and mate in two moves
Solution to No. 1202 (February):

(K24R1A/8/4K3/8/Sp2/8) - mate in two) 1
Q-K2 (zugzwang) (a) 1 K-R7, 2 Q-R8
(b) 1 B-R7 2 KxP, (c) 1 P-BB=Q
2 Kx-K3, (d) 1 P-BB=K3 2 Q-K2



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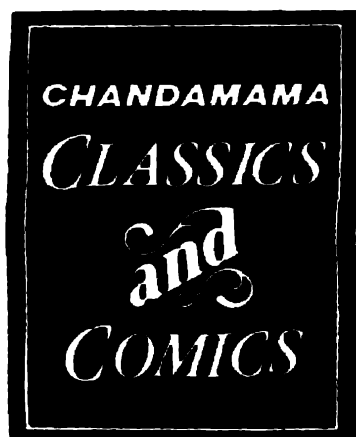
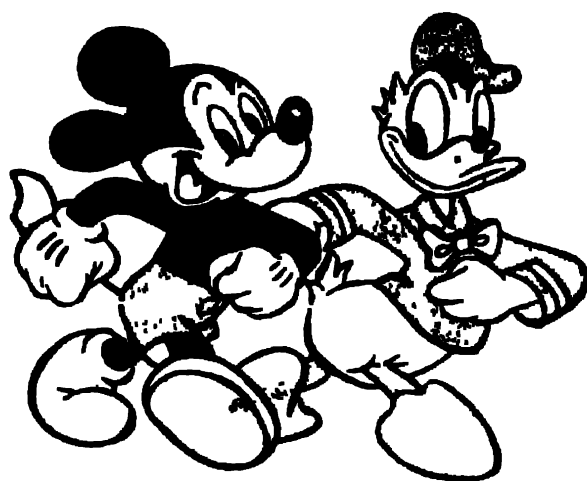
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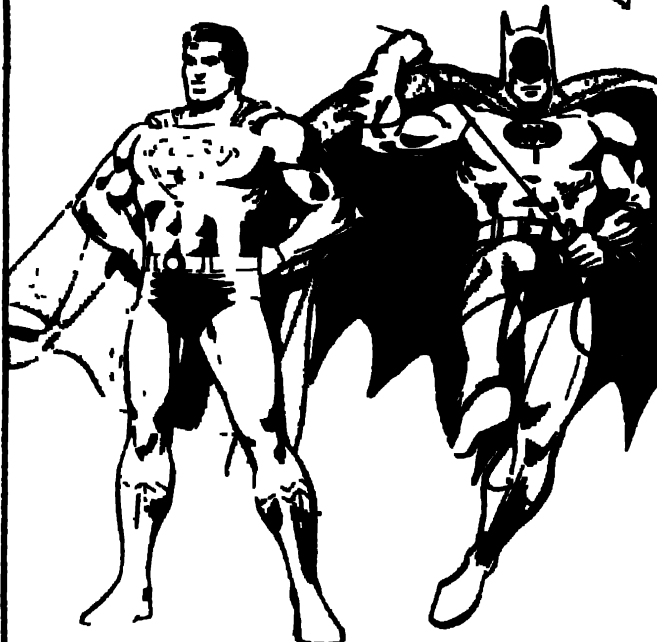


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10 HISTORIC MADRAS TEST
History was created when Sri Lanka played India at Madras and auspiciously too as Mendis began with a blazing century. The Lankans stood out with their attacking stroke-play but the Indians playing safely overshadowed their bowling. A CORRESPONDENT reports



17 THE GAMES ON TRIAL
There was confusion at the Trial Games

and the prospects looked none too encouraging. There were heroines alright Bina Choudhury, Rita Sen and Geeta Anand not excluded! ARIJIT SEN reports from New Delhi

27 STARS OF THE MORROW
A write up

on the tennis stars of the future which includes Mats Wilander, Mel Purcell, Bettina Bunge, Chip Hooper and many more



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Cover transparency of Duleep Mendis by Nikhil Bhattacharya

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Letters to the Editor

Borg forgotten

THIS refers to the article 'Tennis rivalry of the Eighties' published in the *Sportsworld* of 11 August 1982. In the article only two names, that of McEnroe and Ivan Lendl, were mentioned as the persons to be watched in future years. It is surprising to note that the writer omitted the name of Borg in spite of his historical wins and records. His quitting the Wimbledon tournament this year should not mean that he is no longer a player that he once was. One cannot understand how Mr Jacob forgot that he is the only player to have won Wimbledon five times. If I am not mistaken then he has also triumphed in the French Open on more occasions than any other player.

It seems that when a person is passing through a bad phase everyone goes against him. Borg has not been excepted. But I am very sure that he will come back with great success for which he is renowned.

SANJEV MEHTA
Calcutta

P. K. should retire

AFTER India's recent performance in the Merdeka tournament I feel that the national coach Mr P. K. Banerjee is not fit to be in the position he now is. His prediction went haywire and though he had said that India's aim should be to get the gold or at least reach the semi-final at the Merdeka, we finished way down. I feel that he should consequently retire from the post he is now holding.

BIKASH CHANDRA DAS,
Calcutta

Incorrect

THE B. Barnabas, Kalyana Gopin and Mohanlal Mukherjee have, I feel, been incorrectly answered

in your 4 August issue. One of the questions asked is whether a substitute can keep wickets in a game and the answer given is that he cannot. But Law 2.2 states that he can though only with the permission of the opposing captain. Another question asked was whether the pitch could be changed during the game and the answer was that it could not. But Law 7.3 clarifies that it can at the instance of both the captains. In the last question it is queried whether a batsman can be declared out if the ball were to strike the batsman's pads first then his bat, resulting in a catch to a fielder. The answer was in the negative but let me quote Law 32.1. The striker shall be out caught if the ball touches his bat or if it touches below the wrist his hand or glove holding the bat and is subsequently held by a fielder before it touches the ground.

M. R. SINGH
Bombay

IN your weekly dated 1 September it has been answered that only Gavaskar, Vishwanath, Umrigar, Hazare, Manjrekar, Vengsarkar, Borde, Roy, Mani and Sardesai were five or more centuries in Tests for India. It is strange to note that Paragdi's name is missing from the list.

T. D. MUKHERJEE
Varanasi

Excellent

CONGRATULATIONS! Your 8 September issue of *Sportsworld* had an excellent cover page. It was very eye-catching, imaginative and the first of its kind.

Let me also take this opportunity to say that the printing of sports magazines in our country is of a below average standard and the get up of most of them is none too impressive. But *Sportsworld* has done it again. Now that

you yourself have raised the standard of the magazine I hope that you keep it up I expect to see better cover pages and blow-ups in the future I shall not be surprised to find other sports magazines copying this idea of yours
K B SOVANI,
 Bombay

Record yet unnoticed

EVEN after many weeks, a record which Kapil Dev set in the Lord's Test of the recent Indo-English series is yet to be mentioned by our statisticians. If my memory is not bad then Kapil Dev scored 1000 runs and took 100 wickets in the same Test i.e. the sixth game between Pakistan and India at Calcutta in the 1979-80 series. Now in the Lord's Test he completed his 1500 Test runs and took his 150th wicket. He has, thus, proved that his mastery over the bat and the ball is equal. Can the qualified record keepers name any other cricketer who has to himself the above



(Reader Mrs Shohini Ghosh sends us a cartoon depicting the rush for the Asiad tickets. Is it not a miracle that some managed a ticket after all?)

mentioned record?
NAME NOT MENTIONED
 Jullundur

Not Qadir

THE blow-up that you published in your issue dated 8 September was not of a Abdul Qadir. Actually the person shown in the blow up was Majid Khan.
UTTAM SINGHA,
 Bongaigaon
 (I am sorry but you are mistaken. Though I do acknowledge the similarity between the two players—the black and white photograph of Qadir in that issue seems to indicate this—I must assert that the photograph published was of Qadir and not of Majid Khan. EDITOR)

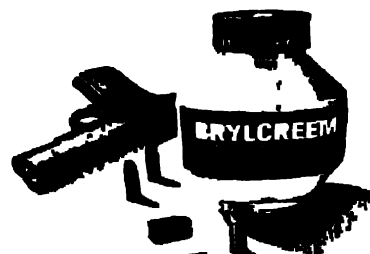
Final say

IHAVE just heard that the magician P. C. Sorcar is going to perform at the Asian Games. Will it be to make Appu disappear from the scene and save it from losing face?
R. SANKARAN,
 Madras

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ASIAD VENUES

BARELY a year and a half ago the land behind Delhi's Central Revenues office buildings, popularly known as "ITO", was nothing but sheer wilderness, which every monsoon, would inevitably turn into a mosquito-infested swamp. Now, it is one of the most imposing construction sites. Close to this historic and hallowed ground the river Yamuna whispers quietly by on its eternal journey.

One finds no reason to dispute the claim of the builders that, when complete, the 25,000 capacity Indraprastha Indoor Stadium, to give it its proper name, will rank as one of the world's largest indoor sports arena.

Over six centuries ago, the Sultan Ferozeshah Tughlaq, founder of the Fifth Delhi—Ferozabad—spend his leisure hours here watching elephants hurl themselves at each other. The massive brown walls of the Sultan's Kotla still overlook the area where, in a few months from now, the air will be rent by, cheers of an altogether different kind as the cream of Asia's gymnasts, volleyball and badminton players battle it out for the medals.

Of unique design, the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium has a diameter of 150 metres and has been conceived as a bowl-like structure. Commenting on the gigantic dome of the stadium, Prof Z S Makows-

A sight to remember

ki, a renowned expert at the British University of Surrey, said, it was the world's third largest dome—"A triumph of Indian engineers." Coming from an engineer of his stature, this is no mean tribute. And yet, not long ago the site for the indoor stadium was being scoffed at because of the loose riverside soil.

The stadium is destined to become one of the country's premier palaces of sport. Its arena of 78 x 60 meters puts it in the world standard. Its roof is supported by eight pylons with structural steel space-frame with corrugated aluminium sheets rising to a height of 44 metres.

The indoor stadium, with its sound-proof foldable partition, can be manipulated in just seven minutes to divide itself into stadia. The stadium will be accessible by split level promenades along both main axes besides a number of auxiliary openings. Lighting will be installed to enable live colour television broadcasts.

The administrative block of the stadium is a two-storeyed structure. The block has an impressive courtyard, with a fibreglass canopy that filters in natural light. The circular conference room is another rare facility. It

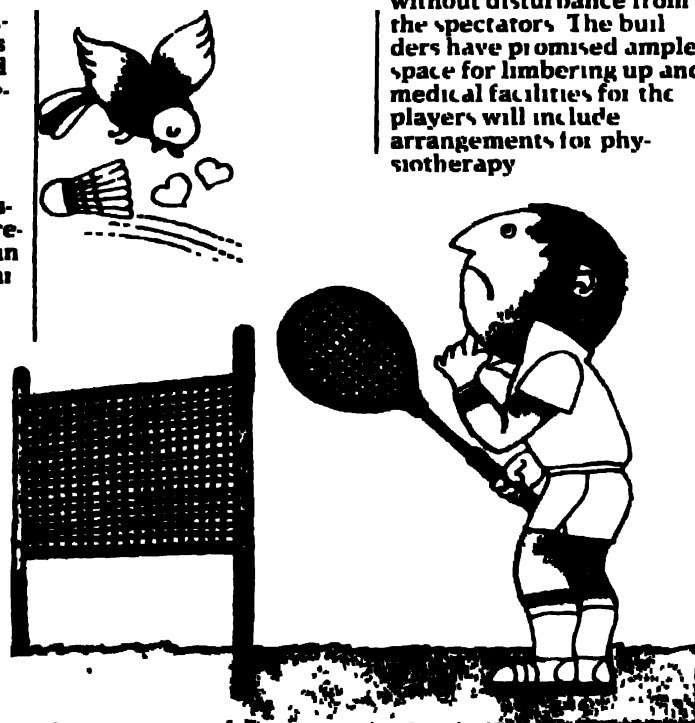
accommodates 300 persons—coaches, judges and Pressmen—at a time. The offices are located on the first floor with special sections for VIPs, posts and telegraphs, banks and a lounge, cafe and photographic section complete with dark rooms.

Sprawling over a 110-acre area the builders, the Delhi Development Authority, estimate that 20,000 tonnes of cement, 5,000 tonnes of steel reinforcement bars and 2,000 tonnes of structural steel will have been used by the time they are through with the project. Each support of the stadium roof is equivalent to a 15-storey building in a reinforced cement construction. No wonder, the structure, is being visualised as piece de resistance.

Though nobody is willing to disclose the original cost estimates, the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium

when complete, will cost a staggering Rs 25 crores. But viewed as an investment in the youth of the country this is not such a massive figure. However, the DDA already has plans to recover a part of the costs and see to it that the place generates sufficient revenue to meet maintenance costs. Hoteliers will be interested in bidding for the place after the games are over. One learns there are quite a few who are eager to acquire the real estate, which will gain a unique appearance with the laying of an artificial lake. However, all this comes only later.

The indoor stadium complex has provision for a coaching block which will provide six practice halls with attached toilets, a restaurant and medical facilities, not to speak of sauna baths. A v shaped players building stands directly opposite the main stadium. Players, have access to the arena by the shortest possible route without disturbance from the spectators. The builders have promised ample space for limbering up and medical facilities for the players will include arrangements for physiotherapy.



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ALL IN THE GAME

KNOTTY PROBLEM

Refusing to bow down

SNOOKER enthusiasts of the country are well aware of the fact that the Indian challenge at the world amateur championships rested on the broad shoulders of soft spoken Syed Habib and the balding Girish Parekh. Habib was involved in a unique incident at the championships played at Calgary Alberta.

The Indian came to the green top to play his match against Peter Kippie of Edinburgh. Kippie came out but refused to wear a bow tie and as a result was disqualified for breach of dress code. He officially lost his fourth round robin match to Habib by 4 frames to 0.

The International Billiards and Snooker Federation requires all players to wear a bow tie during world championships. Kippie arrived for two previous matches with a bow tie.

MASTER BLUNDER

Mountains and the mole hill

FOOTBALL has finally gone mad. Why? You ask! An eleven-year old child refereed an adult third-division soccer match a few weeks ago in Castello, Spain.

The youngster who was the centre of attraction was Salvador Castello Moles. The precocious little Spaniard said before the game, "Players do not understand the rules. They should learn them."

One feels that he has been given a responsibility that demands too much

of his eleven years. Apparently he proved his knowledge by finishing second in a class of adults sitting for their referees examination.

A referee, it has been pointed out, has to be capable of running seven miles or more during the 90 minutes, making split second decisions on incidents the electronic age will dissect in public afterwards. Above all, he must be a man with the maturity and the experience to cope with others who, while pushing their solid frames to breaking point, increasingly react to the whistle with the childish instability of kids in kindergarten. How can Master Moles, aged 11, be such a man?

STRANGE LUCK

Dangerous sporting

TALK of Derek Pringle's back injury, from stretching after writing a letter, and of Tony Greig hurting his ankle playing bridge. Conclusion: A man is only safe in his own bed. Hold it! One does not know if you remember the Aussie wicket keeper Gil Langley. Rings a bell? Well, Langley missed the Manchester Test in 1956 ("Laker match") because on the previous night he slept on his hand and damaged it.

Why, it does not only happen in the game played by "flannelled fools"—fencing is no exception. Richard Oldcorn, a British sabre fencer on his way to the 1977 world championships in Buenos Aires met with a similar misfortune. At the airport he sneezed—and a back which supported a 6 ft 4 inch frame couldn't take it. He was horizontal for all of the long journey and never took part. The moral of the story, probably is that sport isn't half so dangerous as life itself.

THE DALEY EXPRESS

Their man has

WHETHER one considers great victories or world records as the more important, it is ironic that the man who has both during the recently concluded European Championship in Athens, Daley Thompson, is still not at ease with both in his kitty. Somehow he never does get along with the media, as he says, "They all want to talk to me now that their man (Sebastian Coe) has screwed it up."

At his official Press conference after his great decathlon achievement Thompson was asked to go through each of the 10 events to which he replied, "There's no point in all one."

The decathlete's mood was a trifle different a few hours later as he relaxed in his hotel room. Talking of the last event the 1500 metres which helped him to get past the world mark "I tell you I thought I wasn't going to get round that last lap. I kept trying to think of things that make me angry and keep me going. When I looked at the clock I couldn't even read it. I was so dizzy." Everyone else could and the familiar jersey with the number 350 made everyone happy, as happy they'd ever been.

HAM AND EGGS

Involvement and commitment

MAERTINA Navratilova, whose Grand Slam bid was brought to nought by doubles partner Pam

Shriver in Flushing Meadow at the U.S. Open, says she is not just involved in tennis, she is committed to it. "Do you know the difference between involvement and commitment?" asks Navratilova. Think of hams and eggs. The chicken is involved. The pig is committed.

LEAD UNKINDLY LIGHT

Hooligans and magistrates

RAMPAGING Leeds United supporters in a span of just one week received fines totalling more than £8,000 in two special sessions at the local courts. But the attempt to hand out harsh punishments to hooligans by magistrates intent on seeing "that this sort of thing doesn't happen again" misfired. The real culprits, it seems, always get away while many of those who didn't suffer from some rough injustice

A 20 year old factory worker said to take home 70 quid a week was ordered to pay £500 for confronting supporters of the opponent team with his "fist clenched and his face contorted." A 17 year old who earns £22 a week, was fined £200 for running on to the pitch before the match and kicking a football into the net.

Local traders told police that about £15,000 worth of damage was done on the nights after the two matches were played. During the match—needless to say—a stand was damaged and refreshment bar was ransacked. There are serious doubts whether the real culprits were the ones rounded up. Who cares? A sure case of catch as catch can.

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The first 105 must rank as the best

PARTAB RAMCHAND profiles and interviews Duleep Mendis

BELIEVERS in the zodiac signs tell me that one of the characteristics of a Virgo is a person tidy in his methods. I don't normally believe in these things but even disbelievers may concede some significance in Rohan Louis Duleep Mendis' being a Virgo. Besides being immaculate in his methods, he is supposedly pure minded, too. And these two qualities are also characteristic of Mendis' batting.

He is 30 now, born on 25 August, 1952 at Moratuwa and like all lads with immense gifts, he made his mark early, first bursting into prominence playing for the Sri Lanka Under 19 against the Australia Under 19 in 1971/72 after having toured India with the Sri Lanka Schools team two years before. But the innings that marked him out as an uncommonly fine prospect was against Clive Lloyd's all conquering West Indian side in 1974-75. In the limited-over game at Colombo, he took the much vaunted Caribbean pace attack apart for a sizzling 75 in 92 minutes with a six and nine fours. It was this knock that set him apart from his colleagues and from that moment he was put alongside Tennakoon as one of the country's leading batsmen.

Mendis it was who carried the fight into the enemy's camp in Sri Lanka's epic battle with Australia in the 1975 World Cup. Australia had led off with 328 in the allotted 60 overs, but Sri Lanka were undaunted. Every batsman stood up to the thunderbolts being hurled at them from both ends. Wettimuny and Mendis had to retire hurt. Mendis had made 32 runs before his tenure was cut short by a Lillee delivery that struck him on the face. It was this innings that brought to the fore an added quality—courage—to the other charming and graceful facets of his play.

He is also the only Sri Lankan batsman to score over 1000 runs in limited over games—a creditable feat. He was the first from that country to score a century in England when he belted the East African bowlers for a quick 144 at Taunton in 1975. Before he came to India he had played in 65 first-class matches and 112 innings—more matches and more innings than anyone else. Statisticians point out that during the current tour of India, he eclipsed Tennakoon's figures and has taken over statistically as the finest Sri Lankan batsman of all time. Can

there be any doubt that even aesthetically he is the best among the island's batsmen?

But if cricket fans in other cities have not had the good fortune to see Mendis at his best, those at Madras can count themselves doubly fortunate. They saw two positively great knocks from his punitive, classic bat. The 105 he scored in last month's Test match was one. But equally memorable was his 194 against Tamil Nadu in the Gopalan Trophy tie at Madras in 1977. In the latter innings he had come in when two wickets had fallen quickly but did not bother trying out his defensive technique and straightaway sailed into the attack. When it was all over, the bowling lay in shambles around him. The depressing fact was that there were just a few hundred spectators present at Chepauk that day!

A TEA executive with the famous Maharaja Organisation in Colombo, Mendis is married and has a two-year-old son. He spoke to PARTAB RAMCHAND in Madras.

SPORTSWORLD: How would you rank the 105 you scored in the Test?

DULEEP MENDIS: Yes, I think it must rank as the best innings I have ever played. For one thing, I had been out of form of late. Then I entered at a critical stage when Sri Lanka were eleven for two and I was able to rescue them. I was very pleased at the way I batted and the manner in which I got the runs so quickly. Particularly gratifying was the way I was muddling the ball. I certainly won't forget this innings. But then, Chepauk has always given me the runs.

SW: How do you account for your poor form before this match in Tests? You scored only 160 runs in eight innings before coming here.

DM: Against England, we had to bat on a bad wicket and that was possibly the reason. In Pakistan, despite my best efforts I still could not get runs. It is just one of those things that happen to a batsman now and then.

SW: Stepping out and driving a fast bowler is not easy. Yet you did it time and again to Kapil Dev and Madan Lal. Can you explain how?

DM: I always believe that the only way to survive is to counter-attack, to throw it back at the bowlers and go for the bowling. Otherwise, the bowlers will come on top and that is one thing you must never allow happening.

SW: There has been criticism that Sri Lanka is not yet ready for the five-day game. As it to prove this, Lanka have collapsed almost every time in the second innings. How do you account for this?

DM: I believe this is because most cricket in Sri Lanka is played over one, two and three days. Now in three days you hardly get an opportunity to have a second knock. That is why we have come a cropper when we have had to bat again in the same Test. Also the five day game is new to us. We have to get used to it. But I am confident we will.

SW: I have heard people say that you are guilty of throwing away your wicket to bad deliveries. How do you aim to curb these temperamental outbursts?

DM: Yes, I am aware of the fact that I do sometimes get out foolishly. I have to be more disciplined in my approach and I am trying to curb these temperamental outbursts as you have put it, in a natural manner.

SW: One of the reasons why you are so popular in India is that you remind people so much of Vishwanath. Did you deliberately pattern your play on him or did it come naturally?

DM: I am a great admirer of Vishwanath's play, of course, but I guess I acquired my style naturally.

SW: How do you compare the wickets you have encountered here to those in Sri Lanka and elsewhere?

DM: They are fairly slow compared to the ones we have at home or those we encountered in Pakistan. In Delhi and Amritsar this was particularly so but the wicket in Madras is a good sporting track.

SW: Are you at home more against pace or spin?

DM: Well, no one really likes to face genuine pace. If someone says he likes fast bowling then he is not speaking the truth. So I suppose facing spin is easier. But then a very good spin bowler can also have you in trouble of a different kind.

SW: Who is the fastest bowler you have faced?

DM: Jeff Thomson.

SW: And the best spin bowler?

DM: I think that would be Bishan Bedi.

SW: What are your future plans?

DM: Well, I am not contemplating an early retirement, so I will continue to play for Sri Lanka as long as I am picked and as long as I feel I am good enough.

PRINCE DULEEP

A CORRESPONDENT reports on the Madras Test
between India and Sri Lanka

AFTER the Madras test match I honestly doubt if the Sri Lankans are ever going to be taken lightly again. Though at no stage did they look like winning the game, I must say the fact that they made considerable moves to save the game and then launch a last minute exercise to draw it with their honours untouched, must surely go a long way to establishing the side as one of the most attractive, if not as effective, in this age's continuous striving for touches of brilliance.

That Mendis, Dias and Ranasinghe put in flashes of power coupled with elegance at times proved that they can be an adrenalin side. But the

superstar figure, somewhat staid by current use by contemporaries, has been absent from the island country. Once the cupboard is stocked with one, even a couple, their emergence as a power to contend with will be complete.

By the end of the first day the fears had been confined. Dwindling gate receipts is one worry but by the time the post monsoon sun had slipped beyond steaming Madras the organisers had begun to figure out that the financial prospects would now turn out as poor as they had made it out to be.

Sri Lanka had momentarily docked at 311 for eight wickets off only

84 overs and if you have remembered what the situation was always like in England in the summer of 1982 then you must have come in for a refreshing change.

As if in a hurry and rousing doubts as to who was pressing who to play for a win, Mendis had started in style then retained his elan and gone right on. He drove Kapil and Madan Lal before turning his attention to Doshi. For a time no Indian appeared to have the formula at hand to contain him, let alone get him out.

At the same time the fielding, too, appeared to have slackened. Run came at an incredible rate, in fact, 78

Dilip Venasarkar finds his touch





Dias is out caught by a diving Lal on the first day

off the very first hour. Not the done way to start a Test match, you could say!

And not also the most customary of ways after you have lost two wickets for 11 runs as happened with the Lankans when they began on the somewhat historic morning, losing Wainapura for four and Gunatilleke for seven.

Roy Dias kept Mendis company as long as the rampage was on. But that, too, in a mostly sedate role as the second fiddle. Every over religiously yielded eight runs and more. At one stage it was not even worth a try guess, where India's success was coming from.

It came when the third wicket stand had already advanced 153 runs, all eye-catching, when Roy Dias tried to work Doshi on the leg side, got an edge and Arun Lal from silly point had held tight diving down the pitch.

Not that this took the fizz away from Mendis' strokeplay. He kept on with his typical attack, the climax of it naturally coming when he lifted Doshi to the leg boundary for a four and then scythed him into the stands to get his hundred. What a way to do it. He didn't last long after that. He survived a leg before appeal and then went out to another as the umpire this time confirmed it—105 and out to Doshi.

There were quite a few more runs to come in the afternoon. It was soon Aruna Ranatunge driving, then heaving but effectively all the same. On one occasion it was two fours in one over giving rise to thoughts whether the carnage had begun again. But Doshi it was again, and auspiciously, too, as he notched his

hundredth Test victim in Ranatunge caught by Vengsarkar at cover. With a few deliveries and with the score still at 204 Lanka's sixth perished, Ranasinghe nabbed by little Lal even before he had scored.

But in a redeeming posture, Sri Lanka carried the fight to the opposite camp and the majority of the remainder of the afternoon was seen out by Madugalle and the legger Somachandra D'Silva, and they surmounted the total by 77 via some typical Test batting of plodding and an inclination of waiting to score. Doshi broke through again and this time he had Madugalle swiping to Madan Lal for 46 and it was the latter with the new ball who compelled Somachandra to edge to slip for 49. Suddenly the end seemed near but stumps even closer still.

The amusing thought of the day—in some ways, unashamedly unpatriotic—was that Kumari dropped Dias when he was edging Kapil to slip. Had that come about in safer hands the morning might have been ruined!

Quite the expected happened on the second day. Unable to match the batting exuberance of the visitors from across the Strait, India comparatively plodded to a day of frustrating watching at the Chepauk. At the end of the day the home side was safe at 251 for one wicket. Apart from the fact that Gavaskar got himself yet another Test hundred and Arun Lal partnered him in a gritty association of an encouraging opening alliance of 156 there wasn't really much to write about.

Sri Lanka finished in the morning with 346, courtesy Kapil Dev who picked up the last two wickets to

wrap things up. As for Sunil Gavaskar, there is little doubt that he himself would not like to remember this innings as among his most memorable when the years have rolled by. His innings was largely a mixture of caution and safe stroking and seldom did he commit mistakes. It must have been trying in the first couple of hours, if you have the leg fracture well in mind, and it was only after he had flicked one for his hundred that he turned one to square leg, not entirely along the ground and Mendis, though he tried hard, failed to grip.

After Lal had gone, bowled by De Mel for 63, it was Vengsarkar to pick up the challenge. He tried to force the pace, not succeeding entirely and though the late evening showed him in better light with some fine drives, most of the day was spent plonking the anchor while Gavaskar was stroking quite well, especially after tea.

The third day, truncated by a bout of rain on the evening the day before, put a brake on India's chances and the home team were left stranded after taking the lead at 398 for four wickets. For once the chances of a draw began to materialise and the Indian captain was the centre of much discussion at Madras whether he ought to have declared or forced the innings along. Declare he didn't but there was a marked degree of forcing the pace as Gavaskar clearly exemplified with a hit for six off Somachandra D'Silva. He tried to do a repeat off the same bowler but now was taken almost on the boundary line after his 155 had taken him 399 minutes.

Earlier in the day, Vengsarkar had

Sidelights

ALL around the M A Chudam-baram Stadium, the venue of the Test match between India and Sri Lanka, the graffiti screamed "Gavaskar down down" And alongside it were the words "Venkat up up" The connection is not hard to decipher Cricket fans in Madras are convinced that Venkataraghavan is still good enough to play for the country and are equally convinced that it is Gavaskar's "No" that has kept Venkat out of the Test side for three years now And right through Gavaskar's century knock, there were frequent derisive comments But the 10,000 strong crowd forgot their feelings when the Indian captain momentarily reached his century But derisive comments started again as Gavaskar found it difficult to step up the scoring rate And when at last he was dismissed, the cheering was loud and long Not for the 155 he had made, but for the fact that he had now gone There was booing and shouts of "Step down from the captaincy, Gavaskar" on the fourth evening and again on the last afternoon when he and Yashpal Sharma put down the shutters as Sri Lanka came fairly close to pulling off a triumph

NEVER in over 20 years of watching Test cricket in Madras have I witnessed such strict security as I saw in the Test match against Sri Lanka In a way, this was not unexpected The Sri Lanka High Commission had been increasingly worried over reports that the various parties in the State threatened to go on the rampage because of the death sentence imposed on two Tamil youths in Sri Lanka over a political issue

AMONG all the associations conducting Test matches, the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has earned a name for itself as the best Officials and players—both visiting and home—have nothing but good to say about the TNCA Spectators too have nothing to complain about With record profits of Rs 30 to 40 lakhs every Test match, the TNCA is able to provide good facilities and is able to maintain the stadium properly It was, however, thought that no such huge profits would result from the match against Sri Lanka Mr Sriraman, Vice President of the Cricket Control Board, who is also the honorary Secretary of the TNCA, took up conducting the Test as a challenge since no other Test centre came forward to host it, obviously fearing a heavy loss

Mr Sriraman, sensing that it would be fitting if Madras staged the inaugural Test because of the city's special connections with Colombo, took it up with the hope of at least breaking even Cuts were made in all expenses and everything was done in a frugal manner But the lukewarm crowd response—only about 10,000 attended every day—meant that the TNCA was fighting a losing battle. Still, they could have broken even if the rain had not interfered with the third day's play. That happened to be a Sunday and Mr Sriraman pinned his hopes on a bigger crowd that day Because of the weather, the crowd was no bigger than it had been on the other days and the TNCA, for the first time, finished in the red by a little over a lakh

AMONG the crowd was a small group of spectators from Sri Lanka. They were as keen and enthusiastic as their cricketers and cheered and waved a big national flag every time things went right for Sri Lanka—which was quite often. They were careful not to clash with the Indian supporters—who naturally constituted a majority—but quietly took up a place at the far end of the pavilion terrace and encouraged the players from there. Their spirit was obviously transmitted to the men in the middle, as evidenced by the fine performance of the visiting side.

Another small group from Sri Lanka made their presence felt in the same manner. They were the Sri Lanka television crew. They numbered quite a few—technicians, cameramen, commentators. But what caught the eye of even the most fastidious among our TV viewers was their equipment It was sophisticated by comparison with our TV equipment. Placed side by side, their cameras were so sleek, and easily mobile while the Doordarshan cameras were so bulky and cumbersome. Their video equipment, complete with mini-monitors and colour TV, was simply fantastic and many of the spectators took up vantage positions and saw the match on colour through Rupavahini TV all through the five days As one spectator moaned "And they say Sri Lanka is a poor country compared to ours."

SUNIL GAVASKAR caused Salern bells to ring all over the ground—nay, over the country too since the Test was being telecast live over many stations—when he turned up with his sling on the third morning. It did not start till 45 minutes; lunch because of rain and mopping-up operations were going on, spectators and viewers

were astonished to see Gavaskar thus, since he had batted for 282 minutes the previous day, was not out with 122 and had shown no indication of any injury. Was he hurt during the night? Would he resume his innings? Would he be fit for the rest of the match? These were the anxious thoughts that went around before the Indian captain gently explained that he had suffered a minor bruise on his elbow but wasn't taking any chances and hence the large-sized sling. He smilingly posed for photographs, and resumed his innings—slingless—once play started

A TEST match in India is a gala occasion, a social gathering and a festive atmosphere A cricket fan is not a Trappist monk Shouting, cheering, whistling, beating of drums and clashing of cymbals is very much a part of the Indian cricket scene

Even foreigners have recognised this. Thus, it was surprising—to put it politely—to see an Indian youth admonish a section of the crowd for "Making noise" "You have come to watch the match Why then are you making a noise," he burst out, most churlishly. He said so time and again That was it He was plainly asking for trouble and got it He was initially booed by the spectators. Then after the spectators cheered a boundary hit, there were (quickly) sarcastic cries of "Sssshh". Then came derisive laughter for the concerned youth. At the end of the day's play, he virtually had to have a police escort to get out of the ground.

STATISTICIANS, as in any Test match, had a busy day "This is Doshi's 100th wicket in 28 Tests" or "Madan Lal's 50th wicket in 26 Tests" or "Patil's 1000th run in his 16th Test", we were told. That was okay.

But when they got down to "This is Sri Lanka's highest stand for the sixth wicket" and this is "Ranasinghe's highest Test score", it was time to stop jotting down the figures. For a nation playing only its fifth Test match, there are bound to be such minor records. From the Sri Lanka angle, the only noteworthy point was that Mendis had emulated Sir Donald Bradman of Australia (at Melbourne in 47-48) and Everton Weekes of West Indies (at Calcutta in 48-49) as the only other batsmen who had made centuries in each innings of a Test match against India. From the Indian viewpoint, it was India's highest total at Madras (the 566 for six overhauled the 539 for nine against Pakistan in 1960-61).

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played himself into a pleasing nick. Time and again he contrived to circumvent Warnapura and his defensive umbrella and he raced to a zippy 51 off the 68 balls he faced before he was run out, with Roy Dias throwing in to the wicket keeper faster than expected to beat Vengsarkar at 90 trying to get home.

Vishwanath filled in the breach and looked to be setting out to another long innings when he had late cut Somachandra but later, when trying to step out and drive him, he mistimed and Warnapura at midwicket had held on. Sandeep Patil provided the immediate compensations and began quite typically—three boundaries at Ranasinghe's expense and all in one over.

By the end of the day he was batting with 30 off as many balls and Yashpal at the other end was expectedly timid for a man who can alter his moods to suit the occasions. The fourth day was, perhaps, the most exciting when you have the circumstances of the match strictly adhered to. For India saw out the morning and part of the afternoon with Patil advancing to his hundred in a fiery mood and determined to hit every Lankan off the length. Sri Lanka, too, finished on a perplexing note—at 179 for three and with 41 still in the red they were playing like a set of batsmen maddened beyond correction. No ball seemed deserving of respect and for once the visions of an exciting finale were conjured up.

Much of the Indian debt of the day was rounded off to Sandeep Patil. His powered innings left Kapil, too, in the shade and out of the 168 runs that came to be scored on the fourth day from the Indian side, Patil contributed half of them. His ideas were crystal clear when after reaching his century he immediately lifted Ranasinghe for a six and as if that was not enough he hit another for four off the following ball.

Yashpal lasted for not much time

and he went quite early for only 17. Kapil Dev managed 31 off 35 balls, an unequal balance, and consequently not too laudable for such a gifted all rounder and after he had left chasing a Ratnayake delivery to the wicket keeper it was Madan Lal to chip in with some effective boundary hitting. In all he managed five of them to leave India at 566 for six before Gavaskar declared and left Sri Lanka looking absolutely inconsequential in the presence of this overwhelming total.

But the afternoon belonged to Roy Dias, in fact the entire day. Coming in at the loss of the first wicket which fell at six he kept the scores moving at an incredible rate of frenzied boundary blazing. The 50 of the innings came off just 39 minutes and 85 overs—a situation that would have done a one-day side credit. Often Dias fetched himself a couple of boundaries in an over, once even three off Kapil Dev. There looked as if there was little to stop him and indeed there was little as he had already got his fifteenth boundary when just 62. It was a pity that he fell three short of what would have been his second Test hundred, off a mere 108 balls. He went finally, caught by Gavaskar and in the process to give Shukla his first Test wicket.

Mendis had been at the other end for most of time—and overshadowed too. His end-of-the-day 59 had spanned 91 balls and Ranatunge at six seemed to belie his first innings dash.

Mendis picked up the threads from where he had left off and though his innings now was more laborious he showed the necessary application to carry a losing venture right into the enemy's dressing room. He got his second hundred of the match—statisticians here hummed that only three others have done so against India. They were Bradman and Weekes. Some thing in common with

Mendis, if you were there at Madras on the September day.

Ranatunge began the slide for Sri Lanka in the morning when he tried to cut at Doshi and paid for it by snicking to Kirmani behind and just four runs later Doshi induced Madugalle to have a try at him, lifted him all right but Patil had cupped at mid off. That should have packed it up for India but Ranasinghe made amends to his first innings lapse. Atoning, he carted the Indians quite rudely for a 77 that came off just 98 balls. He even lifted Kapil Dev for a boundary over his head and then paid the expense, being bowled in the process. Fifty of his runs had come in boundaries.

Earlier, Mendis had rubbed the salt much deeper. The closer he came to his second century the more fierce he became and never did he show more insolence than when he cut Shukla to move over to 97, took a couple of runs to move within kissing distance. And then, to top it, he rode out and despatched Doshi over the extra cover man for his century. And what if he had been out stumped one short!

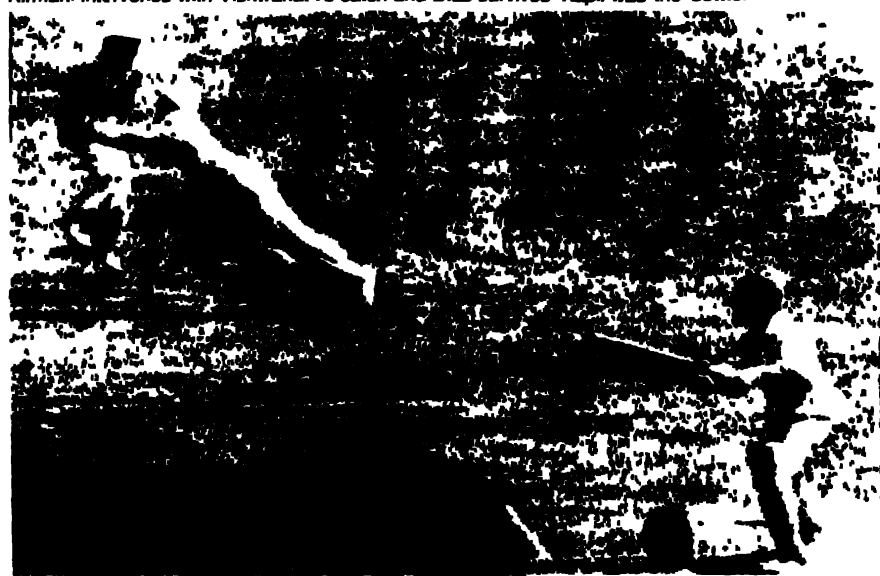
After Mendis and Ranasinghe had departed, much of the challenge was taken up in earnest by Somachandra D'Silva, limiting the thrust of the Indian bowling with a staid 46.

It was Kapil Dev's final burst that finished Sri Lanka off. He had the last two men quickly polished off as Sri Lanka finished for 394, quite good for a second innings tally and especially if you are fighting to save the match. That left India to make 175 to win in 53 minutes and a score of mandatory overs—an even chance.

But the very first over provided the set back when Arun Lal failed to get over the line of the ball and Dias and caught it safe. Vengsarkar followed caught and bowled by De Mel but Patil and Kapil ensured for some time that the fight would not be thrown away.

The two added 62 runs off 52 balls and then India came to the closest to winning. Warnapura resorted to an extremely defensive field—almost watertight—and for most of the time certain boundary strokes were being reduced to futile singles. But then in a most horrible moment Kapil drove Somachandra D'Silva to long off, came down for a single. Not realising that Kapil was not ready for the second Patil had darted down. Both were caught in one crease and by the time Patil made an attempt to recover ground Dias' throw had done it. Patil had made 46 off just 33 balls. With Kapil Dev being expected to carry on the battle at 78 the chances still looked even. But when he had edged De Mel to Gunatilleke the fight had gone out of Indian hands. India finally finished at 135 for seven, forty short. Had Gavaskar declared early

Kirmani intervenes with Vishwanath's catch and Dias survives. Kapil was the bowler.



Sri Lanka cricket down the years

IT does somehow seem fitting that Madras should host the first-ever Test match between India and Sri Lanka. For if India and Sri Lanka have had a special relationship, then the ties between Tamil Nadu and the island country have made it even more so.

The geographical position being what it is, it was inevitable that Tamil Nadu should be close in more ways than one to Sri Lanka. The Palk Strait which separates Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka—and consequently the two countries—is just 22 miles at its narrowest. Invariably, the landing spot for all Lanka touring teams to India has had to be Madras.

In 1952-53 the Gopalan Trophy was instituted in honour of the famous double international. Thus commenced a contest which was held between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka alternately at Madras and Colombo. Except for two or three years, the contest—an important event in the calendars of both the Cricket Associations—was held regularly for 25 years.

The players of both sides used to look forward with undisguised eagerness to this important and prestigious contest. The matches were keen and the trophy used to change hands at regular intervals, at times even every year. But around the mid-Seventies the importance and the prestige of the contests waned. The reasons have not been hard to pinpoint. Sri Lanka were by that time striving hard for Full Membership of the International Cricket Conference. The fact that they were still involved in an annual match with a State team must have considerably lessened their chances of getting into the exclusive club. Moreover, if they had been beaten in these games, it would hardly have strengthened their claims to be a Test playing nation and take their place alongside the 'Big Six' of international cricket.

So at first Lanka started sending out teams which were not at all representative of their strongest. This meant that even the Tamil Nadu players did not take these matches very seriously and soon the Gopalan Trophy fixture was relegated to a match which was played at the season's end.

Towards the late Seventies, Sri Lanka gave one reason or the other for their inability to be part of this annual tie. In fact, for three successive years, the match was not played and then suddenly in 1980-81 the teams met again at Salem, where Sri

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Lanka won the trophy. Again, it was not held last year and now, with Sri Lanka having achieved Full Membership, it does not seem likely that they would like to continue playing a State side. The Gopalan Trophy fixture has already outlived its usefulness and it is time that the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association and the Sri Lanka Board called a halt to it. The trophy itself could be put to better use—probably towards a match or even a tournament for the youngsters.

But there is no denying the fact that the 23 Gopalan Trophy games (Lanka won 14 and Tamil Nadu nine) did their bit in helping foster Indo-Sri Lanka cricket ties.

Sri Lanka cannot boast of a cricket history akin to that of India which goes back over 200 years. Still, the beginnings of the game in the sun-kissed, tropical islands can be traced to well over 100 years ago. Like in India, the British brought the game to Sri Lanka, too, and there were matches played between British settlers—mostly military personnel—in the mid-nineteenth century. Most of the cricket was played in and around Colombo, and as it was the capital also and an important junction on the chief sea route between England and Australia, teams used to stop over at Colombo for a game or two. These games date back to as far as 1863 and this tradition is still being continued over a century later.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century cricket was played chiefly by the rich British coffee and tea planters around the hill country of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon). There are stories that these planters in the districts of Colombo, Kandy and Galle would travel almost 50 miles on horseback through wild country and over rugged terrain to play the game. This enthusiasm, under different circumstances, is still seen today among the island's cricketers.

The pioneer British merchant sportsmen founded the Colombo Cricket Club in 1863. The contributions of this Club to the growth of Sri Lanka cannot be overemphasized. During the formative years, the CCC took upon itself the entire responsibility of running the game in the islands. In Sri Lanka the CCC is frequently compared to the Marylebone Cricket Club, the redoubtable forefather of international cricket.

The interest and the standard of

the game in Sri Lanka grew steadily towards the end of the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the current one. And a new dimension was added with the Indo-Sri Lankan connection that commenced around 1930. From that moment, Sri Lanka cricket with Indian encouragement took a tremendous upsurge. Of the numerous international teams which have played in Sri Lanka, India, always considered a "good and friendly neighbour" has sent out the most number of touring squads. Sri Lanka, for their part, has always been generous in their praise for India, without whose help they could not have made it into the international arena. India first regularly placed Sri Lanka's case, first for the Associate Membership, and then for the Full Membership as far back as 1964. And when Sri Lanka did play their first official Test match earlier this year, it did seem a triumph for both, Sri Lanka and India.

Around the time the India-Sri Lanka connection was forged the country was fortunate to have a dynamic organiser in Dr. John Rockwood, known today as the "Father of Sri Lanka". Dr. Rockwood, who was the livewire of the famous 'Nondescripts' Cricket Club, was also the founder of the Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club. Tireless and enthusiastic, Dr. Rockwood was instrumental in bringing to the island W. E. Lucas' Indian team in 1926 and Jamshed Antia's team from Bombay in 1929. Other far-sighted pioneers included Robert P. Senanayake and P. Saravanamuttu.

The first tour that aroused tremendous interest in Sri Lanka was the one they sent to India in 1943. The team, led by Dr. C. H. G. Navekara, the first of the many outstanding players produced in the country. He led a strong team which, contrary to expectations, had the better of both the drawn 'Tests' at Lahore and New Delhi.

The good performances of this team did a lot to further enthusiasm in the game. And from then on, the game in Sri Lanka was more organised. The influence of the CCC slowly diminished. Until the beginnings of the Second World War the game in the pearl-shaped island could not be imagined without this club. Notwithstanding the fact that they did encourage local talent, the CCC's spirit was still largely western and about the time of the Second War, with the island on the verge of gaining Independence, it did seem a matter of time before the CCC

actually vanished from the scene that it had largely helped in creating.

It was around this time that the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka took shape. With the help of the CCC it made the lovely Maitland Palace Club at the Colombo Oval, the headquarters of Sri Lankan cricket. Soon the Colombo Oval was not only acknowledged as one of the most picturesque grounds in the world but one which had among the finest pitches, too.

With English teams making a stop at Colombo every four years when on their way to Australia it seemed only a matter of time before the English-Sri Lanka relationship became stronger. With Indian cricketers playing in the Lancashire League in the period immediately after Independence in large numbers it was inevitable that players from Sri Lanka would follow suit. And as the Fifties dawned the fresh and dynamic approach of Gamini Coonesena was seen gracing the English cricket grounds. The all-rounder earned a name while captaining Cambridge University and playing for Nottinghamshire. About the same time Ladie Dutschoorn turned out for Worcestershire and lent strength to the County for a decade. Then followed Stanley Jayasinghe and Clive Inman, both of whom played for Leicestershire. Inman not only finished as high as third in the English County averages in 1963—an unparalleled feat for a Sri Lanka cricketer—but two years later, he went on to score, what is even now, the fastest half century in first-class cricket. Playing for Leicestershire against Nottinghamshire, he hammered his way to 50 in just eight minutes!

Actually, these four players represented their Counties as cricketers of independent Sri Lanka. But they were preceded by Dr. Gunasekara, who helped Middlesex to win the championship in 1920 and 1921. Two decades later, a couple of Sri Lanka's outstanding cricketers—E. C. de Saram and Mahadevan Sathasivam—also made their presence felt on English grounds. Not only that, they were also invited to play for the Rest in the Bombay Pentangular!

With India and then Pakistan taking up their cause, it did seem a matter of time before Sri Lanka, already an Associate Member of the International Cricket Conference since 1965 would become a Full Member. But the two neighbouring countries fought a losing battle in successive ICC meetings in the face of strong combined opposition from England, Australia, the West Indies and New Zealand. The four countries seemed to think that while the standard of cricket had no doubt improved there was no concerted effort to expand its scope. Cricket, they said, was being played largely in and around Colombo and hardly any

where else.

Sri Lanka took this up as a challenge. Not only did they expand the base so that a lot of cricket was soon being played in Kandy, Galle, Jaffna and other places, but they also saw to it that cricket at the grassroots was not neglected. At the school level in particular, Sri Lanka showed a tremendous improvement in standard.

So much so, even during the Sixties, when the senior team repeatedly lost to India, the schools team on the other hand, again and again, got the better of their Indian counterparts. Interest at the college level was something to be seen to be believed and when two top colleges, for example, crossed swords at the Colombo Oval, the ground was not big enough to accommodate the multitude.

One just had to go through the coverage given to these games in the Press and over the radio to grasp their impact. More important, Sri Lanka augmented their financial resources, so much so that they were no more whistle-stop tours to the islands. They were now full-fledged visits. Teams that came to India and Pakistan invariably went to Sri Lanka. Then there were tours to Sri Lanka alone, some lasting for as long as two weeks. In 1972-73 for example, both Pakistan and England visited the island within the space of a couple of months. Guarantee money was increased and when it was learnt that in 1975 Australia had vetoed Sri Lanka's application for Full ICC Membership because they said "The island lacks financial resources and it is no reflection on the skill and ability of the players", no little effort was made by the organisers, headed Gamini Dissanayake, President of their Board of Control for Cricket, to pool in more money for the game.

This kind of enthusiasm fired their cricketers to reach for higher honours and as the Seventies dawned, it was quickly apparent that the opposition to Sri Lanka's gaining Full Membership could not continue for long. In the inaugural World Cup in 1975, Sri Lanka gave a heart warming display against Australia, when in the face of a total of 328, they did not flinch even in the face of fiery bowling by Lillee and Thomson and replied with 276 for four in 60 overs. But they fared badly against the West Indies and Pakistan and this, more than anything else, set their cause back for another few years.

As it was, they still had to wait but for not long. In the 1979 World Cup, they lost to New Zealand but then pulled off a brilliant victory over India. By now no one doubted their prowess in one-day games, but did they have the necessary application, determination, dedication and staying power for the four-day and five-day games?

A tour of England in 1981 proved that they did, for they finished with an impressive record. And finally the dream came true. After several rebuffs, the ICC at last granted Full Membership to the island last year and announced that England would play an official Test at Colombo on their way home from India in February 1982.

Yet, getting into the ICC was not enough. Now Sri Lanka had to prove to the world that they fully deserved this honour. And the formation of the Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation at this stage was among the best things that could have happened. Sri Lanka lacked the playing fields, pavilions and other cricketing infrastructure and facilities that measured up to the international standards. Building all this was not impossible but expensive. With active support from the private sector, the Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation was formed and the inaugural function was attended among others, by Garry Sobers who has always had a soft corner for the island and its cricketers. A sum of Rs. seven million was pledged in a short time and the capital with future augmentation is expected to be used to improve the standard of the game in that country. The objectives of the SLCT are five fold:

- 1 To encourage and support the playing of cricket
- 2 To train coaches
- 3 To assist needy cricketers
- 4 To improve cricket grounds and
- 5 To build stadia

There have been a few more ambitious schemes in the world of cricket and for the fledgling cricketing nation to adopt this massive plan just shows their enthusiasm. Very soon after the SLCTF was formed the Asgiriya Cricket Ground at Kandy was transformed into a lovely stadium that was fit enough to stage a Test match, if necessary. More such stadia and other facilities will obviously be heard of in the near future thanks to the far-sighted plan of forming the organisation.

Enthusiasm, as the cliché goes, is the mother of success, and no one doubts the keenness of the Sri Lanka cricketers. But unfortunately, their daring—almost a daredevil approach—seems more suited to one-day cricket rather than a five-day Test. Indeed, even during the last decade they have had a fine record against all the senior playing countries in limited-over cricket, but have frequently come a cropper in a game played over a longer period. It is this factor that still has many critics shaking their heads in disbelief at the fact that Sri Lanka is a Full Member of the ICC. It is up to their cricketers—always so fresh, dynamic and so different in their approaches—to justify the confidence that the ICC has thrust upon them. The Mairas Test gives them a chance of refuting the charges.

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THE GAMES ON TRIAL

ARIJIT SEN reports from Delhi

THE trial games for Asiad '82—or Trialad as it is being called—were no trials at all.

There were lacunae and worse in every sphere of activity. The very purpose of staging the trial games—so that defects in preparations for the Asiad could be localised and removed—were lost in the general unpreparedness.

To begin at the beginning, the infrastructure for the Asian Games were not ready. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium—the focal point of the Games—is far from complete. Constructionwise, over a month's work remains. This after repeated assurances by the Special Organising Committee that the stadium would be ready by September.

Steel rods, bricks, sand and debris are strewn all over the concrete stands and outside. The upper tier of the 75,000 capacity stadium has not even been fully cemented. The lower tier, which is supposed to have plastic bucket seats, looks like the jagged Colosseum of Rome. There are uncemented brick walls all around, giving the impression of an aban-

doned structure that just might have been.

But perhaps the worst aspect of this stadium—which will certainly look impressive if it is ever completed—is the audio system devised at the last minute. The original plans for this stadium did not contain the crude pillars that now ring the artificial track and the lush green football area.

Obviously, this was an afterthought by those in charge of construction. But whoever was responsible had obviously not seen any modern day stadium anywhere. The loudspeakers could easily have been fitted into the existing structures, provided someone in the Organising Committee had thought of this elementary necessity before the actual construction started.

Now, as things stand, these pillars which ring the actual track and field areas will impede the view of both spectators in the stands and the millions of viewers in India and abroad when Doordarshan films the Asian Games. Repeated queries about these pillars have met with no

response from any quarter. No one seems to know who is responsible for their construction and whether they would be ultimately pulled down. But if they remain standing during the Games, they will certainly disgrace this nation.

The Hall of States, where the table tennis and boxing events were worked out at the Trialad, is a huge impressive structure. But it is very stuffy because the planners thought that since November will be a cold month, there would be no need for air conditioning. But everyone who has been inside for more than fifteen minutes in September knows that the body heat of 5,000 spectators and their need for oxygen will result in a very stifling atmosphere.

Apart from this, there is every likelihood of confusion in and out of the playing area, at least as far as table tennis is concerned. During the trial games, it was extremely difficult for competitors and officials to move around.

When Asia is present in strength during the Asiad, it will be difficult for officials to discharge their duties

Persis Madan: the record breaker



NIRAL BHATTACHARJIA

From the players' point of view, the most difficult proposition is their coping with the extra lights needed for colour television. These have been placed at such an angle that the players will find it very difficult to concentrate on their game.

The Indraprastha Stadium which, like the Nehru Stadium, was meant to be a showpiece with a capacity of 25,000 indoors, presents the same problems to badminton players. The lights will play havoc with their sight. This stadium is also not complete—what with the gigantic separation not being ready and the surfaces for the different games being hurriedly placed.

The Badminton Association of India at first refused to hold their team championships under these conditions. It was only at the request of the chairman of the Special Organising Committee, Mr. Buta Singh, that they finally agreed to go ahead and risk their Commonwealth squad and their players under these conditions.

The Model Town and Ambedkar Stadium are the only structures that have been more or less completed. Both will do credit to the country. But the same cannot be said about the swimming complex at Talkatora. One misfortune after another seems

to have befallen this particular arena. It is doubtful even now whether it will be ready in time for the Games. According to present estimates, it will be ready by the end of October, but this seems unlikely if one is to go by past promises.

There is a running battle between the Special Organising Committee and the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, whose members constitute the bulk of the Technical Committee. All these years, officers of the NSNIS had been going out frequently to study conditions abroad. And all along, they had been critical of the various federations conducting different games. As a Games official rightly put it: "This is the first time that the NIS itself has been put to the test. And everyone who has been to the Trial Games has seen how miserably they have failed."

The curtain dividing the Indraprastha Stadium into two takes seven minutes to drift down. It is a beautiful sight but once again, faulty planning has made it imperative that a change is made immediately. The curtain is white. Badminton rules stipulate that the background must on no account be white. Now the planners will have to either colour the screen or mar its beauty by

putting up an additional 40-foot high coloured screen.

The food at the Asian Games village needs to be considerably improved if we are to reach anywhere near international standards. The IFDC, in charge of catering, came up with stale food on some days. And it made it a practice to provide vegetarian food every alternate day.

Apparently, the wrestlers and weightlifters ate "well". So the IFDC chose to take it out on the other athletes and sportsmen. Why weren't the athletes given a choice of non-vegetarian food every day? There are athletes who prefer meat and fish to a strict vegetarian diet. And it is extremely important for an athlete to be satisfied with the food he eats because it has a strong psychological import. Besides, an athlete should always be given choice of food. Why should there be an authority to decide on the exact menu that an athlete must have?

The technical committee decided to organise swimming competitions in the National Stadium complex. More important than the fact that the spectator capacity was extremely limited, the chlorine content of the water was so high that it affected the sight of almost all the swimmers.

Talking about the National Sta-

Athletics: Running riot

THE man at the helm has never run in his life. Nor is he particularly good in the organisation sphere. The result is that the discipline he looks after is now, perhaps, looking after him.

This is the allegation of several athletics officials when confronted with questions on the many shortcomings at the Trials. Mr. Sivia, who is the secretary of the Amateur Athletics Federation of India, has not been able to cope with the many problems he encountered during the athletics meet at the Trials. Games Attention was focussed on athletics because it will be the greatest highlight of the Asian Games. But whichever way one looked, there were glaring shortcomings.

Organisationally, the meet was a flop. There was a scramble for official positions because everyone knew the format would remain unchanged for the Asiad. Mr. P. Matilal of the Railway Sports Control Board, was listed for the Ceremonies Sections. When he opened the souvenir brought out on the occasion, he found his name struck out. And no reason was offered.

On the track and field, there were several officials who were told to just get off the field

Again, no reasons were given, but these dedicated athletics officials were brushed away so that people close to the powers that be could be accommodated.

The electronic equipment for the Games did not arrive. In fact, they are due only a few days before the Games. Since most track and field officials are not used to such equipment, there is a possibility that they will not be properly utilised because of lack of practice. The giant score-board was also not fully functional and, often, there were discrepancies between the timings shown on that board and the smaller one placed on the opposite side of the Nehru Stadium.

The artificial track has not yet levelled fully. There are still some air pockets, which makes it uneven. Stained rolling and watering may ultimately smoothen it uniformly, but one hopes that will happen before the women's festival commences.

The AAFI and the technical committee of the AGSOC combined to present the athletes with a ridiculous situation. Although the athletes could have had three days of practice before the meet started, they couldn't get onto the track and field before the actual meet commenced because they

were not provided with the special shoes needed for this artificial surface.

After the athletes created a ballyhoo, everyone connected with this mess looked around for a scapegoat. None was found. The situation worsened by the second day of the meet when jumpers were asked which was their take-off foot. The organisers were apparently in such short supply of shoes that they wanted to hand out one odd to each!

But what really took the cake was the non-inclusion of Rita Sen in her squad for the Commonwealth Games. She sprinted to victory in the short events and even took records under her belt. But the Patials and AAFI bosses felt she was not good enough to represent the country. This brings to mind the allegations about timings and time-keepers at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports. It is reported that the hand-timings always seemed to suit the thinking of officials with regard to selection of athletes.

The only consolation for athletes without godfathers is that the final camp for the selection of Asiad athletes will be held in Delhi and not at Patiala.

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dium, one has to point out that here again, there has been faulty planning. The stadium, which was the centre of activity during the first Asian Games, has been earmarked for hockey. The playing area, naturally, is a lot less than for football. As a result, after the astro turf had been laid, it was found that the spectator stands were very far removed from the action. The stands could have been greatly increased by bringing them closer to the playing area.

The same is the case with the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. A lot of space has been left waste outside the field of action. As a result the spectators at the top of the second tier are about fifty feet farther away from the action than they need have been.

Organisationally, too, the Trialad was almost a disaster. The Games Village which is still not complete, was witness to the trials and tribulations of sportsmen and officials. There was a lack of drinking water from the start. Tankers were pressed into service, but won't it make India a laughing stock in Asia if these were used during the Asiad? Then again confusion reigned over the allotment of beds to different categories of officials and players. While one particular individual had a whole flat—which means eleven beds—to himself, ten people were huddled into another meant for six. One referee was even asked to stay with a foot-

ball team he expected to supervise in the invitation tournament billed for the Trialad!

Then again, some members of the technical committee of the Special Organising Committee made utter nuisances of themselves by trying to oversee the operations of the different federations which were asked to conduct their respective disciplines.

The matter of payment of allowances to sportsmen and officials was carried to ridiculous lengths. One SOC official went to the extent of asking Swimming Federation of India members whether they had actually come first class in trains to the capital. They said they would pay actuals in that regard. A whole delegation of sports medicine officials invited to do Trialad duty had to fend for themselves in every sphere. They were not provided with accommodation and were not even extended the common courtesy of soft drinks on the field—which others not directly connected with the events were gulping at will.

More important equipment for several disciplines had either not arrived or were not distributed by technical committee officials. The shooters were worst hit. Clay pigeons essential for practice and competition, had not arrived. That entire competition had to be scrapped and Dr. Karni Singh refused to go to Brisbane for the Commonwealth Games because he did not want to

face competition without practice.

The Organising Committee blundered on regardless. Six tables and two typewriters were all that were available to journalists in the Press Centre at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. There was no sign of the telex machines supposed to have been put there during the Trial Games. Even these essentials were missing at the other venues.

Bickering among officials of different departments, which started, a long time ago, has intensified with the removal of SOC secretary, Gill. He reportedly fell out with chairman Buta Singh. At other levels, too, vague work delineations have resulted in confusion.

The Asian Games Special Organising Committee has one more chance of correcting its mistakes and ensuring that the Games are held smoothly. The Women's Sports Festival will be held in Delhi—at all the venues marked for the Asiad—from October 16 to 23. That period should be taken as the final dress rehearsal for the Games. This means the stadia should be ready, the equipment on hand and the officials and workers at their respective stations. The present refrain 'Sub thik ho jayega' will simply not do thereafter.

THE athletics scene at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was an example of agony and ecstasy. Although the top positions in the various events were claimed by the Asiad probabilities over all performances—with only a few exceptions—were rather discouraging. After all the conditioning camps and the trials at Patiala where athletic coaches boasted of vast improvements and brighter prospects at the Asiad, one feels rather let down after the Trial Games. Will we be able to repeat or surpass our previous Asiad medal tally on home ground? There is hardly anything noteworthy by way of progress in the men's section. The only redeeming factor in this section was that one meet and one national record each was bettered. The women, however, literally put their counterparts in the shade with seven meet and four national records, while one more meet record equalled in the 16 events.

Judging by the time and distance trials in both track and field events at Patiala a fortnight before the Delhi meet, one expected that the successful athletes would either repeat their feats or perform better at the open competition. Sadly, the reverse was true. Take for instance, the case of the hefty Bahadur Singh. At the Patiala trials he heaved the shot putt 18.68 but at the capital's oval-shaped stadium he managed only 17.87 metres, while Vijay Bahadur's performance also showed a downward trend.

Broad jumper Ravi Kumar was another disgrace. His best leap this season was only goes to prove that

Scramble for the torch

ON November 19, the attention of the whole of Asia will be riveted on the flame that will be brought into the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to signal the start of the ninth Asian Games. Naturally, the man and or woman carrying the torch to light the cauldron will be the centre of attraction.

Who will this or these persons be? At the moment, more than ten names are being considered. Arriving at a conclusion will be difficult for IOA President, Raja Bhalindra Singh and Minister of State for Sport-cum-Chairman of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, Mr. Buta Singh. The names are being the Deputy Chairman of Mr. Umrao Singh.

Pressures are coming from various quarters for different athletes and sportsmen who had distinguished themselves in the past. It is a difficult situation because there is no basis for evaluation of the merits of the "contenders".

There is, for example, a proposal for the selection of the most outstanding athlete India has pro-

duced. Undoubtedly in this case, the honour would fall on the 'Flying Sikh', Milkha Singh.

On the other hand, some influential people contend that the person who has won the most gold medals should be chosen to carry the torch into the stadium. In this case, it would have to be a hockey player because India has consistently won Olympic and Asian medals in this sport.

Obviously, it is going to be very difficult to choose a person from such a select group of stars. And one will be surprised if it is not suggested from Punjab, because that is the strongest in Delhi. It is in the interests of the Asian Games to choose a person from Punjab.

In fairness to the only choice open is to choose the most outstanding athlete of sportsmen. He was the Asian Games gold medalist in 1951. It would be an honour to carry the torch for all countries and would show the world that India has a great athlete.

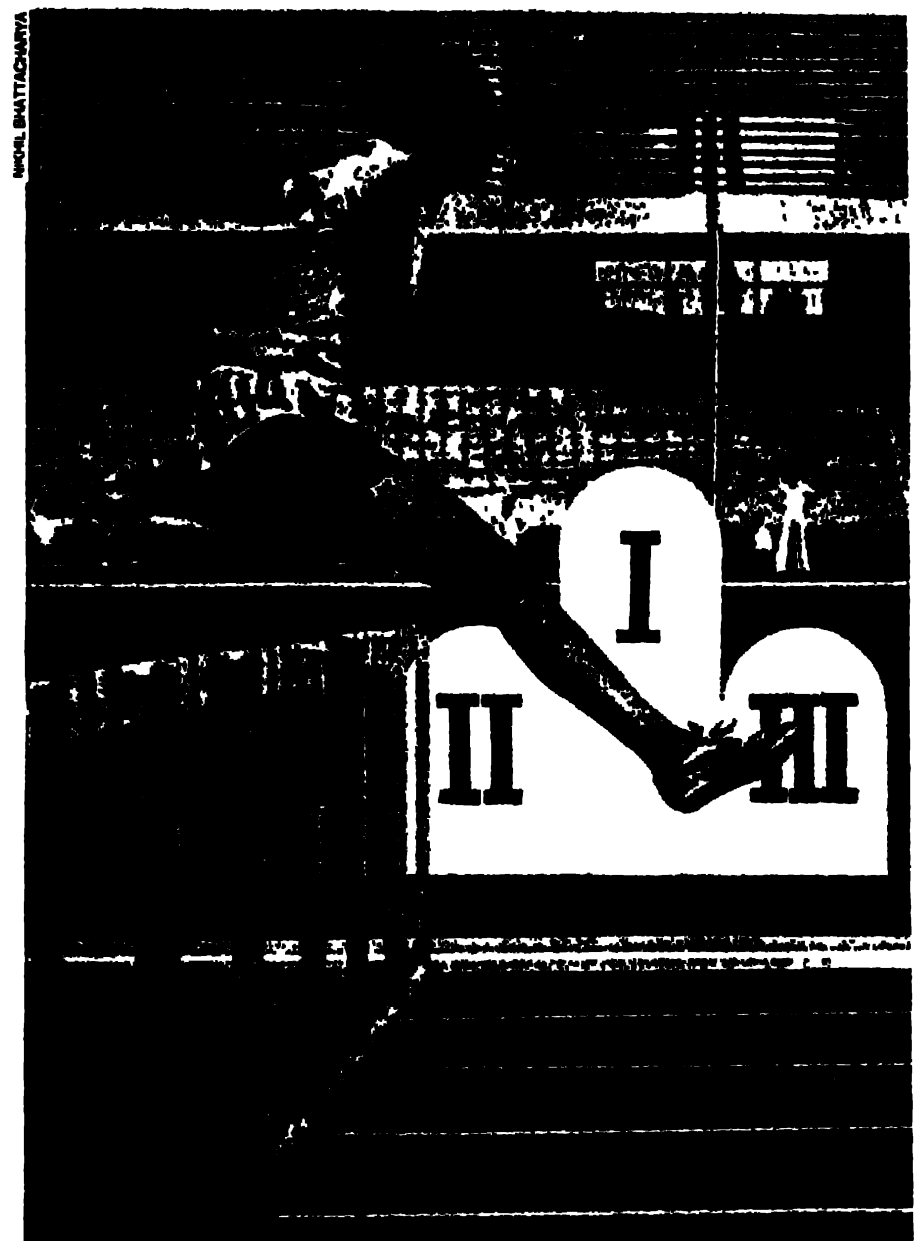
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they are still shy of international exposure on the eve of the Asian Games. Hopefully, Sabir Ali, India's decathlon gold prospect, should recover from the detrimental affects of the German tour.

Yet another sensational stir which was created in the four day meet was by Karnataka's junior international Anand Shetty who pipped seasoned campaigners like Adille Sumariwala and Murl Kuttan in both the 100 and 200m dash. The 18 year-old sprinter has a bright future provided, of course, he gets the right guidance.

Women definitely cornered more of the glory. There were doubts whether Bengal's ace sprinter Rita Sen would match up to the speed of P. I. Usha and Sreekumari Amma. With Usha's indisposition the tussle was centred around Rita, Sreekumari, Vandana Rao, Hanida Banu and Kunju Kunjamma. But Rita set the tracks ablaze to ultimately become the queen of the track with a treble and an equal number of meet records. This in fact was a rare distinction in Indian athletics. On two other occasions Olympian Milkha Singh and lately Premchandian had achieved this distinction. Though Nirmala Uthiah did claim the three sprint golds in the 1972 inter State meet, she failed to lower any meet record. In the heats Rita clocked 11.9 and dashed the 100 m final in 12.01 sec. to win her first victory in the last four Open meets. However, her timing in the final was two seconds outside her personal best. Rita ran in style to notch up meet records in 100m (5.40 sec) and 200m (21.7 sec). After all this she missed the bus to Brisbane. M. D. Valsamma lived up to her reputation in the 400m hurdles. She became the first Indian to clock below 61 seconds while short and frail Shashikala Ramachandran broke the 10 minute barrier in the 3,000m by clocking 9.59.6. Ibemungshi Devi of Manipur hurled the javelin 46.42 metres to shatter Daven Port's long standing record. Meric Mathew created a meet record with a leap of 6.22 metres but she can do better than this. Angel Mary Joseph almost touched the magical figure of 5,000 points in the heptathlon. Though Geeta Zutshi won her middle distance double easily she was quite a disappointment. She returned her standard timing, 2.10 and 4.30 in the 800 and 1500, respectively. Being an Asian gold medalist at Bangkok Geeta can surely perform better. Perhaps this handful of women are the best we have at the moment in athletics. As for the men, chief coach Saini will have to give a serious thought after the miserable performance at Delhi.

THL record breaking spree by leading Indian swimmers during the six-day Nationals was unique. And if there is one person who can claim credit for this, it is the East



11 on her way to the hurdles. Anita Sood

German coach Bernd Ihonke. With such splendid performances being dished out one can guarantee that our swimmers will further improve. At least, Ihonke feels that way. He asserted during the Trial Games that all timings will be lowered further at the Asiad. Though all this seems very encouraging, there is no room for complacency because we are far behind when it comes to Asian standards.

To begin with, Anita Sood did not have it all her way due to an injury and ear trouble which affected her build up. But the way she fought the challenge of team mates Persis Madan, Geeta Anand and Bengal's little Bula Choudhury was impressive. Her breaking the 10 minute barrier in the 800 m freestyle and the 200 m freestyle are two unique examples. In fact, the improvement in her 800 m timing was quite meteoric from 10.13.1 last year she reduced the timing to 10.01 and finally clip-

ped it to 9.58.0 at the Trial Games. She reduced her existing 200 m freestyle mark of 2.18.0 by 0.2 seconds.

In the Madras Nationals Anita Sood, Persis Madan and Wilson Chennan cornered the glory but at the NIS pool there was an altogether different picture. Here Persis Madan, 16 year old Geeta Anand and 12 year old aqua queen Bula Choudhury--the youngest girl to don India colours--and finally Khatin Singh from Police were in the limelight.

Persis Madan remained the backstroke expert and snatched the medley glory from Anita. She improved the 100 m backstroke timing by 1.3 seconds on her existing record of 1.13.8 and went further to win the 200 m back with a timing of 2.38.2. In the 200 m medley, she bettered her own mark with a timing of 2.44.2 while Anita improved by 2.8 seconds. There was no stopping her as she





went on to clinch the 400 m medley with 5 25 1

Moulded by Jhonke, Geeta Anand did wonders to emerge the breast stroke specialist when she rewrote both the 100 and 200 m events. She clipped off a fantastic 9 9 seconds off the existing record of 3 04 7 in the 200 m and shattered Manipuri's Kiranmala Devi's mark of 1 25 4 when she clocked 1 23 9. But Japan's Huoko Nayasaki has the best timing of 1 11 08 in his event.

Diminutive Bula was the sensation at this meet as she had been at the Narpur Age Group competition earlier. Within a few hours she broke the 200 butterfly record twice. In the heats she lowered a brilliant Persis Madan's timing by 11 seconds. In the final Bula clocked 2 29 7 but she is still 13 28 seconds slower than Japan's Y. Hatsuda (Asiad mark 2 12). Jhonke is hopeful that Bula can improve further.

The men's section saw brothers Dharampal Singh Lokas and Khazan Singh Lokas on the rampage. Elder brother Dharampal snatched the 400 freestyle gold with a timing of 4 31 for a new meet record (old mark 4 35 8). This event saw a keen tussle among Dharampal, Sanjib Chakraborty and Khazan Singh and all three surpassed the old record. Later Dharampal eased Mohinder Singh's 1981 mark of 15 21 2 in the gruelling 1500 freestyle when he clocked 15 15 9. Khazan took the 400

medley after putting aside teammate T. J. Jacob's record (5 22 3) for new figures of 5 07 0.

But the German coach says that if Khazan improves his butterfly timing he can break the five-minute barrier. But even then the Asian timing is cut of reach (4 39). He followed up his victory with another new record in the 200 butterfly he clocked 2 15 9 in the heats and shaved off a further 14 seconds in the final.

Railway's Wilson Cheriyan bettered both the 100 and 200 backstroke records and he seems to have a strong grip at both these events. He bettered his 200 m timing of 2 22 4 by 0 7 second and figured 1 05 in the 100 m. A similar feat was also pulled off by Police's Iouba Singh in the two breaststroke events. From 1 12 9 in the 100 m he clocked 1 11 4 while in the 200 m he did 2 37 which is 3 3 seconds inside his own mark. Another policeman I. J. Jacob who claimed to be the medley expert earlier salvaged some reputation when he improved his 200 m medley mark by 1 5 seconds to clock 2 17 8.

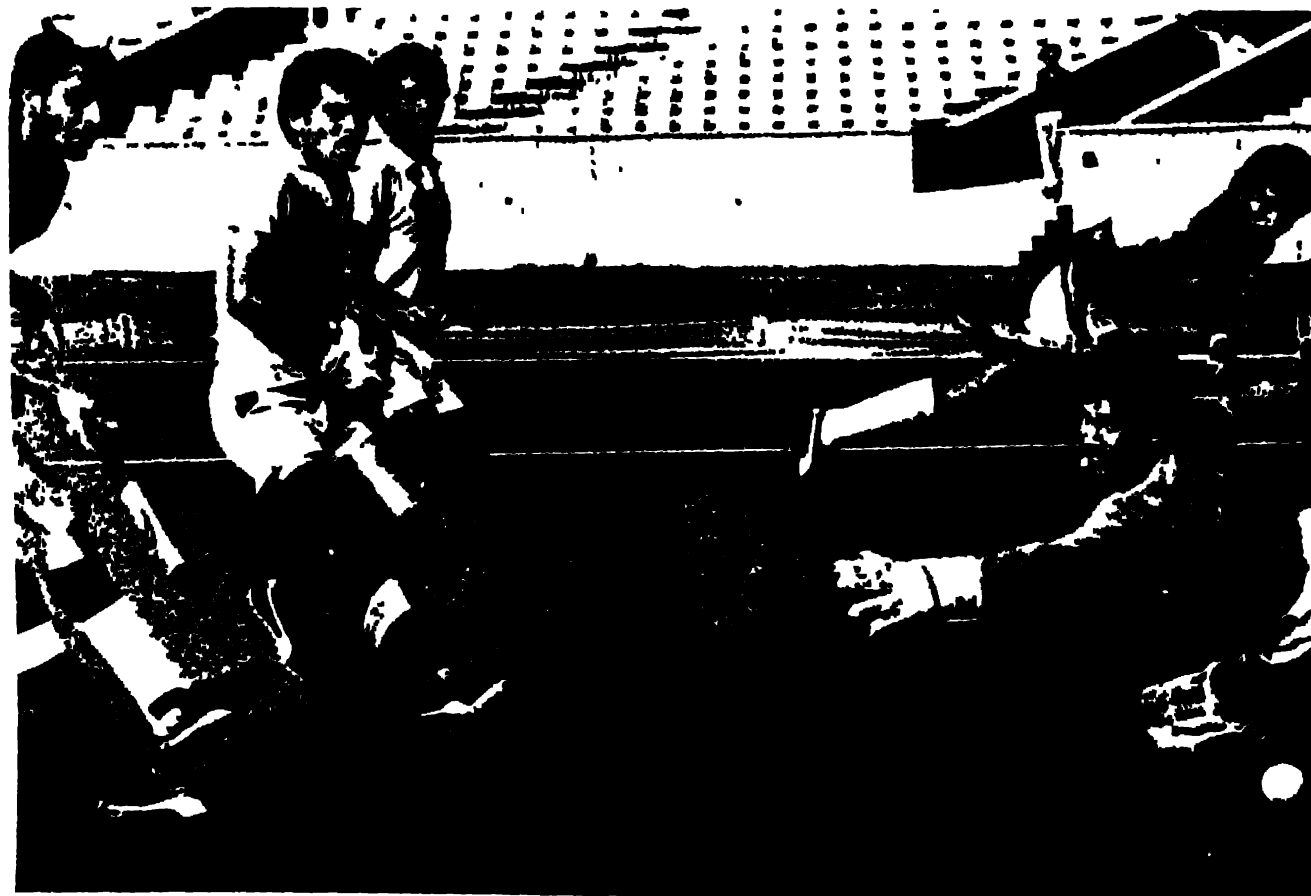
Young Sanjib Chakraborty became the fastest sprinter in the country when he recorded victories in both the 100 and 200 freestyle. In fact Jhonke commented in these columns earlier that Sanjib has scope of improving. He surely proved this when he broke Somasekharan's record of 57 1 by

timing 56 7 but he did have a better timing at Patiala in the 55-56 seconds range and can prove himself. He took the 200 m with a time of 2 05 4. So he did play a vital role in Railway men's team lifting the championship while Maharashtra won the women's. Of course, Persis Madan and Bula Choudhury were the individual stars.

TRULY, a new era dawned in Indian hockey when the international hockey tournament was played on the astroturf at the National Stadium. It was always on the cards that the IHF team, comprising the Asiad probables, would be the top contenders, but the Central Zone outfit earned a very special place for themselves by the showing of their promising juniors.

This year, the tournament was played on a round robin basis. As far as new talent went, the most promising players were Central's Naem, Lahim and Yadav, West's Nagesh Azad, and South's Gurucharan Singh, fullback M. P. Singh, goalie Rawat. It is a common knowledge that this artificial surface produces more goals than natural grass and there was no more clear example of this than the IHF's 5 1 romp against South Zone. Yet, it was even more noticeable that the victors did not display the kind of finesse one would have expected of a side that has been rigidly trained on astro turf.

Left to right: At the meet, Khazan Singh Lokas, Sanjib Chakraborty and Dharampal Singh Lokas at the National Stadium.



In fact, other than Charanjit Kumar on the flank, the rest of the forwards lacked any real proficiency. There is still the old weakness in the half line, while the conversion of penalty corners without the indispensable Rajinder Singh, was extremely poor. Despite the fact that South lost, there were still creditable performances from Rajashekhar, Yuvaraj and right back Javashkhar.

While the tussle for the inevitable last spot produced keen competition, the IHF team went closer still to the title when they won 9-2 against Central Zone. After the latter had equalised in the early stages of the game, the IHF side slammed the door in their faces when they scored four goals in the short span of six minutes to throttle the challenge. Thereafter, there was nothing to stop them from lifting the title and they overcame North Zone as predicted, although the IHF boys had to manage without full back Gurdishpal Singh who was shown the dreaded red card.

Certainly, the gold medal is going to produce a close struggle, come November. India only has one Asiad hockey gold to its credit at Tokyo, but our prospects this year are perhaps as bright as they ever will be.

PUNJAB POLICE's emergence as the winners of the Trial Games invitational football tournament held at the capital once again proved that speed and stamina are the most important factors in modern soccer today. The way they trounced their rival contenders for the title showed that if they had had any real advantage over others it was their ability to send the opponent's defence in disarray by launching swift moves aided enormously by their superb physical fitness.

Punjab Police's closest rival in the arena were possibly BSI. But they did not have as good a tournament as the former. And it was their inferiority to the Punjab Police players, as regards speed and stamina that proved their undoing in the final which they lost by a solitary goal. Both the teams adopted more or less the same strategy—to play a fast game and clinch the issue early. But Punjab Police had much more penetration and combination in their attacks which often caught the BSI defenders on the wrong foot.

But efforts on the latter's part were always relentless, but for which the Punjab players could have triumphed by a much bigger margin.

Punjab Police, however, had to toil hard to overcome the stiff hurdle when they met Bengal Juniors to ensure their berth in the final. The match ended in a one-all draw, a result quite unexpected as the Bengal boys had no chance to make it to the finals after a few setbacks prior to this encounter. But their morale was quite high and they fought neck to neck with Punjab Police who

needed only one point to go to the finals.

In the other semi-final BSI trounced JCT 3-1, with their ace footballer Pradeep Subba scoring a brilliant hat-trick. Like Punjab Police, BSI also needed just a draw to make it to the finals. But never did they seem to take things easy, because a match against JCT is always a prestige issue. So they went all out to register a convincing victory.

The leading spirit behind this effort was Narendra Gurung. It was he who paved the way for Pradeep to get his hat-trick. After the first half being entirely dominated by BSI, JCT made some efforts to come back into the game in the second half. Their veteran Inder Singh took it upon himself to spearhead moves and once took a powerful shot at the goal, which rebounded off the cross-piece unfortunately.

They got their consolation goal towards the close of play when the BSI custodian Budda Singh missed a ball and Kashmira Singh of JCT seized on the opportunity to score the only goal for his side.

In an inconsequential match Services outplayed Delhi 3-0. Services finished the tournament with six points (two wins and two draws) while Delhi lost all their matches.

Punjab Police was given a big jolt for the first time when their winning streak was stopped by Services in a goalless match.

Earlier, BSI downed Bengal Juniors 7-1. It was a really humiliating defeat for the national champions. In the first half itself BSI scored as many as three goals, thanks mainly to their aggressive tactics that they adopted from the very beginning of the encounter. The hero once again was Narendra Gurung who drew the first blood. Bengal did not recover from the shock they suffered in the first half and the second one saw them go even more on the defensive. This made it much easier for BSI to raid their goal areas time and again. The result was four more goals.

In another match JCT revived hopes of reaching the finals when they routed Delhi 5-0 and the chief architect of their success was Kashmira Singh, the diminutive football genius, who scored four of the five goals, including a hat-trick. It was JCT's second win in four matches till then.

Ajit Banerjee adds

THE "Indian leopard", B S Thapa's return to the ring is certainly very happy news for boxing fans. Thirty-year-old Thapa has won the national title five times. Not only is he a recipient of the Arjuna award but he has also won a silver medal in the Ninth Asian Boxing Championship at Bombay, a gold in the "Mini Commonwealth Games" in Brisbane and a bronze in the Com-

monwealth Games at Edmonton. Thapa's participation in the last two Asyads at Indonesia and Bangkok did not however, bring him any laurels.

Thapa was absent from the boxing scene at Seoul, the rumour being that he was unable to take any more blows. In fact, after a 12-year rigorous career, the tired Guikha had gone away to settle down into the quiet and peace of a newly wedded life.

And soon a new Thapa emerged—stronger and bolder. Now he uses both hands with equal power, speed and ease. This is matched with an aggressive temperament, essential for the game. His right jab is powerful and accurate. He slips the opponents' straight lefts and gives a right cross, left uppercut—and most boxers are knocked out by this systematic, well-timed combination.

So our Guikha boxer B S Thapa tops the Brisbane list. The others are Issac Amaldass (fly), G Mandharan (bantam), M Xavier (feather), C Machaiah (welter) and Kour Singh (heavy).

If we fall back on the American coach Sam Hickman—who has produced several world class boxers—he feels that Thapa is a "complete fighter".

Young M Xavier (22 years) won a bronze in Seoul and is a promising fighter for India. Twenty-seven-year-old Machaiah with his Arjuna award is the only knock out puncher of the country. He has won seven medals from various countries in his career from 1974 to date.

to bring him recurring success.

And lastly, there is our gold winner—the gigantic Kour Singh. Thirty-year-old Singh has actually set a record in Indian boxing by winning four gold medals within the brief span of three years—1980 to 1982. With his strong will and punch power, this man could create history in Indian boxing.

The Indian boxers' list, however, has remained incomplete without the inclusion of Jasral Pradhan, the Seoul gold medalist. His name was cancelled from the 29th National Championship in Delhi even though he turned up for the weigh-in. M S Chako, the Services team manager, says that Pradhan is physically unfit for an international meet as he is suffering from aches in his limbs. With the aid of specialists and medical men, Pradhan might have a bout or two in the Asiad, but his name is certainly out from the Commonwealth list. Pradhan is confident that he will face the Asian rings. And the boxing fans share his hopes.

Despite all our optimism, we should consider Samuel Hickman's statement, "The Commonwealth Games participants in boxing are very tough." And our chances of faring well against the boxing giants of Canada, Australia or even the African countries is rather lean.

Look out for them. They will be going places



Mats Wilander, winner of the French Open at seventeen

BEFORE mid-May, Mats Wilander's most notable on-court achievements were last November at Stockholm (quarters) and Bangkok (runner-up to Bill Scanlon), the 1981 French Open Juniors crown and a final-round appearance in March at Brussels. There, after straight-setting Manson, Theissen, Teacher and Glickstein, Mats let slip a 6-4, 4-2 lead over Gerulaitis and finally lost 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. Nonetheless, that week helped establish his confidence and, two months later, once he had bolstered it at Rome with a jaunt to the semis, the 5'-10" right-hander from Vaxjo was ready to invade Paris. There, unseeded and ranked 30th, Mats did the expected and beat the three men he outranked: Alejandro Cortes, Cassio Motta and Fernando Luha. Then, with an abruptness that could induce the bends in less sturdy constitutions, he eclipsed Borg's exile and Lendl's dominance to become the tennis story of the spring by proceeding to upset four of the planet's top eight players—the tournament's second, fifth, fourth and third seeds—namely, Lendl, Gerulaitis, Clerc and Vilas. Since then, he led Sweden's Davis Cup contingent to St. Louis, beat Jett Scher and played McEnroe for five sets and six-plus hours before losing the fifth point of that tie. A week later, he won the Swedish Championship in Bastad over his 18-year-old countryman, Henrik Sundstrom. The youngest male ever to win a Grand Slam singles title, Mats, now ranked No. 10, turned 18 on August 22.

JIMMY ARIAS

FOR a year that began as a bust, 1982 may just turn out to be a booming success for Jimmy Arias, the high school-working man from the Buffalo suburb of Grand Island who turned 18 on August 16. The youngest male, at 15, ever to play and win a match at the Open, for the first six months this year Arias struggled manfully to regain the form that brought him a USTA/Penn Circuit title last June in Shreveport, La. Then ranked 157th, Jimmy straight-setted Mike Cahill in the semis but was given little chance against Eliot Teltscher in the final. There, displaying the characteristic impudence of youth, Jimmy fooled the experts, upset the favorite and emerged with his first pro title. More recently, after a dismal stretch earlier this year when he won but two matches in his first eight events, Jimmy began turning things around in Paris. There, site of his 1981 mixed doubles triumph with Andrea Jaeger, he stung Shlomo Glickstein, throttled Uli Pinner and extended Chip Hooper to a fourth-set tie-breaker. Back stateside, in D.C. Jimmy found his

rhythm and eased into the semis, there to face Jose-Luis Clerc. Again, observers foretold Jimmy's inevitable and sudden ouster, but again the youngster prevailed, battling back from a set down to unseat the defender. After losing to Lendl in the final, Arias then granted an encore of his runner-up effort, this time at the Clay Courts in Indianapolis where he nearly outlasted Jose Higueras in the final. In so doing he lifted his ranking right to the edge of the top 30.

MEL PURCELL

VIRTUALLY unknown two years ago outside the college ranks, almost overnight Mel Purcell burst into the tennis limelight and became one of the brightest young stars in the game. After winning the NCAA doubles championship for the University of Tennessee with Rod Harmon, Mel turned pro two years ago in Boston and then upset a hot Lddie Dibbs in Washington. Awarded a wildcard into the Clay Courts, Mel not only survived the qualifying, but in the main draw went on to topple Pascal Portes, Hank Pfister, Harold Solomon, Wojtek Fibak and Mario Martinez before locking horns in the nationally televised final with Jose Luis Clerc. After Indy, he continued to impress opponents and endear himself to fans, not only through his championship efforts at Tampa, Atlanta and Tel Aviv, but also through his lack of pretension, scrambling, all-out style and contagious delight in playing the game. Currently ranked just inside the world top 20, last September on these courts Mel fell once again to Clerc after having downed Ilie Nastase and Shlomo Glickstein. In '82 he has reached the fourth round at Paris, the quarters at Monterrey, Tampa and Forest Hills, and finals at L.A. and Boston where he beat Ivan Lendl in the quarters. Doubles titles have come partnering Teltscher in Delray and Chip Hooper in Munich, while Mel and Tracy DeLatte were runners up to Amaya and Pfister in Monterey.

BETTINA BUNGE

ALTHOUGH she won't turn 20 until next June, 1982 may well be remembered as the year Bettina Bunge came of age. Seeded twelfth at last year's Open, the slender right-hander's best outings in 1981 were in Tokyo and Houston as runner-up, in Dallas, Seattle, Los Angeles and Mahwah, where she reached the semis, and Flushing where she got to the round of sixteen before top-seed Chris Evert-Lloyd eliminated her

Born in Switzerland and now living in Coral Gables, Fla., being the daughter of an international businessman has enabled Bettina to play for the national championship of Peru at age 13 (she won it), help fortify the West German Federation Cup team since 1980 and to learn four languages. But however you say it, when she opened 1982 by reaching the quarters at D.C. the final at Cincinnati and the quarters

at Seattle all in the course of three weeks, you had to admit that she was off to her fastest start yet. Then following a month's respite, Bettina returned to the tour in Houston sufficiently refreshed to straight set Lea Antonopolis, Mary Lou Piatek and Dianne Fromholtz before downing Pam Shriver in a hard fought three-set final. Then, following some early-round losses, Bettina rebounded when spring broke, reaching the



Bettina Bunge rapid rise on the ATP computer

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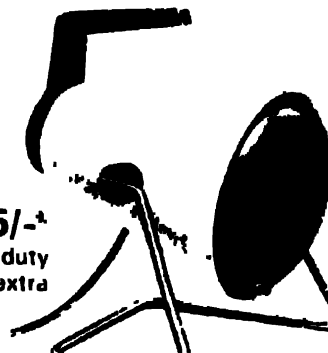
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semis at Amelia Island and throttling Rinaldi 2 and 2 on clay in the final at Berlin. A semi-finalist at Eastbourne in June, Bunge's dubious reward for ousting Anne Smith from the Wimbledon quarters was to face Navratilova in the semis.

ZINA GARRISON

THIS time last year, if you spent some time watching the juniors, you probably couldn't help but notice Zina Garrison pummeling one of her six victims en route to her generally unchallenged surge to the U.S. Open Girls' championship. Though she needed to win a second-set tie-breaker in the semis to stay alive against Helena Sukova, Zina, who two months before had won the Wimbledon Juniors, went on from that narrow escape to defeat her young Czech opponent 6-0 in the third. In fact, only in her first-round defeat of Sweden's Catrin Jexell (6-2, 6-4) did the right-handed Houstonian fail to win a set at love. Now making her third appearance in the women's draw here, in 1980 as a qualifier she pushed Dianne Fromholtz to three sets in the first round, while last year, as a wildcard, Zina threw a similar scare into seventh-seeded Wendy Turnbull. Though she failed to get beyond the first round in her first three events of 1982, over the course of 12 weeks this spring Zina enjoyed four excellent outings in succession, reaching the quarters consecutively at Hilton Head, Paris and Eastbourne and persisting to the fourth round at Wimbledon. En route to those results, the former U.S. Girls' 16 national champion (d. Leand) recorded decisive wins over Bunge, Jausovec (twice), Goolagong and others, and bowed only to the likes of Jaeger, Mandlikova and Navratilova (twice). The ATA women's champion in 1979 and 1980, Zina turned professional during this spring's French Open.

CHIP HOOPER

IN December Chip Hooper's ranking stood at a pretty obscure 235. Sure, he had won the NCAA Indoor in 1981, had reached the quarters at the NCAA Championships two years running and had twice been accorded All-American status at Arkansas, however, neither those accomplishments nor his strong performances on the 1981 USTA Penn Satellite Circuit brought him either profuse raves in the Press or an inventory of "good wins." In other words, Chip was totally unprepared for his electrifying advance during the last week of January. Then, after surviving the qualifying for Philadelphia's U.S. Pro Indoor, the 6' 6" right hander proceeded to overpower Peter Fleming, fourth seed Roscoe

Tanner and John Sadri. In the semis, Chip took the first set off Connors and led 6-2 in the second-set tie-breaker before Jimmy dug down and rode his ripping ground strokes to a 9-7 verdict and the set. Though Hoops eventually dropped that match in four, the point had been made. The 23-year-old had surely come far fast, and subsequent results have only served to prove that Philly was no fluke. Since then, Chip's huge serve has helped him to a semi-final finish in Frankfurt, quarter-final results at Monterrey, Rotterdam and Munich, the fourth round in Paris, to match wins over Steve Denton, Brian Gottfried, Mel Purcell, Tomas Smid and Peter McNamara, and to an eminently respectable ranking of 27th in the world.

BARBARA POTTER

IF 1981 was Barbara Potter's year to establish herself as a force among the game's elite, then thus far 1982 has been her time to consolidate her gains, reinforce her top-ten status and throw one last shovelful of sand on the rumour that claimed her game was limited to an awesome serve. Seeded eleventh at last year's Open, the 5'9" lefty from Connecticut added considerably to her already large following by reaching the semi-finals via four strong victories and one dramatic narrow escape (6-7, 7-6, 6-3) from Andrea Leand in the fourth round. Victorious in her first pro event back in February, 1979 at Toronto (d. Bunge), during the winter of 1980 she worked her way into a consistent groove, reaching the quarters or better in six straight indoor events. A semi-finalist last summer at Eastbourne and among the last 16 at Wimbledon, her loss here last year to Tracy inaugurated a curious pattern that has fully emerged in 1982, specifically, that half her losses this year have been to the tournament's eventual winner. Jaeger in Oakland and Navratilova in Washington, Seattle, Kansas City and Eastbourne. Nonetheless, she has reached five quarter-finals—including Wimbledon—two semis and two finals, winning impressively in Cincinnati over Lee, Russell, Rinaldi, King and Bunge. While amassing other strong singles wins over Jaeger, Jausovec and Shriver, Barbie has combined with Sharon Walsh to win back-to-back doubles crowns at Kansas City and Oakland.

LESLIE ALLEN

NINETEEN months ago, when Leslie Allen triumphed at the Avon Championships of Detroit, she became the first black woman to win a big-time singles since Althea Gibson. That victory, a fourth-round re-

sult at the French Open, plus a third-round finish at Wimbledon all helped elevate Leslie's computer ranking to a career high of 17 this time last year. Though upset by France's Corinne Vanier in the first round at the US Open last September, all in all Leslie's sturdy year-long play netted her an eminently respectable No. 12 USTA ranking at the close of '81. A *magna cum laude* graduate of USC, in 1977, the same year she won the American Tennis Association championship, Leslie helped the Trojans to the national women's team title. An excellent all-round athlete, during the last few years the adoptive New Yorker has developed an increasingly effective doubles game. Playing mostly with Mima Jausovec, thus far in '82 Leslie has shared titles in Detroit and Amelia Island. In singles, she has seen four quarter-finals and one semi—Los Angeles—in pursuit of her second pro crown. En route to those results she posted strong match wins over Fromholtz, Rinaldi, Bunge, Potter and Kathy Jordan. Moreover, before this year Leslie had fought to three career victories over Hana Mandlikova.

KATHY RINALDI

THE latest in a lengthening tradition of teen sensations extending back through Jaeger, Austin, Shriver and Evert, Kathy Rinaldi hops this time around to improve upon her early exit from last year's Open, when, at age 14, she bowed in the first round 7-5, 3-5, 7-5 to Kathy Horvath, two years her senior. Even so, 1981 was a watershed for the right-handed Floridian. Just ten weeks after turning 14, Kathy became the precocious toast of Paris and the youngest player—male or female—ever to achieve the quarters of the French Championships, thanks to victories over Dianne Fromholtz and Anne Smith. Later, a 6-3, 2-6, 9-7 defeat of Susan-Lee Rolinson earned Kathy the distinction as the youngest ever to win a match at Wimbledon. After turning pro in late July, 1981, Kathy wasted little time in riding her two-handed backhand to her first circuit title, defeating Julie Harrington in Kyoto. Three years ago, when most of her contemporaries were off watching Star Trek re-runs, Kathy became the first player to win the USTA 12s Grand Slam, netting her age-group national championships on all four surfaces. More recently, in 1982 Kathy's best weeks have come on clay courts: the quarters at Amelia Island (d. Ruzici), the fourth round at Paris and the final in Berlin. There, only Bettina Bunge stood between Kathy and the German Championship after the youngster had rolled over Marie Pinterova, Rosalyn Fairbank, Mima Jausovec and second-seeded Sylvia Hanika.

Interview

I should have been on tour party to England

RETURNING after a highly successful season with Hartlepool Cricket Club in the North Yorkshire South Durham League, Rakesh Shukla lost little time in getting back to the game on Indian soil. Shukla, who lives with his brother, Krishan Chandra, a public school master, was out practising on the school ground under the expert eye of eldest brother Anand, who wanted to form his own opinion on his kid brother's cricketing progress. Rakesh being the youngest of the three brothers, everyone has lavished much attention on him.

One of the highest paid professionals in the English Leagues, Rakesh had, before taking the plane back home, won for his club the cham-

pionship, taking 61 wickets and scoring over 1,300 runs for which Hartlepool made the rare gesture of presenting its cricket 'pro' the Hartlepool Mail Trophy, normally reserved for its footballers.

For all his long stays away from home, Rakesh Shukla has retained his simple, neat Brahminical lifestyle and manners. A teetotaler, non-smoker and a vegetarian, he is a misfit as a stores executive in a brewery. He has refused to learn even to sweat at umpires—something many of our more famous cricketers have, regrettably been quick to emulate.

Shukla has been always described as a leg-spinner, quite ignoring the fact that his batting is equally good,

if not better. Having faced a variety of hostile bowling in the English Leagues, he has been steadily improving in the department and is easily qualified to be called an all-rounder, rather than just a break bowler.

At 31, Test recognition has come rather late. But he is not alone that way. He played in the Board President's Eleven against Asif Iqbal's 1979 Pakistanis in a rain-ruined match at Baroda, taking two wickets for 50 odd runs before rain washed out play at tea on the first day. It was a misfortune for him and had the match gone the full distance, he may have had enough wickets in his bag for not to be ignored any longer.

However, now that recognition has come at last, Shukla appears determined to make the most of his opportunity. That is the impression A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT came away with after meeting him on behalf of Sportsworld on his arrival home from England.

SPORTSWORLD. How do you feel now that you have made it into the Test team?

RAKESH SHUKLA Thrilled. Absolutely thrilled and happy. I first got the news in England when my brother telephoned me from New Delhi. Excitedly, I rang back my parents to reconfirm the news, to find out the exact position, whether I was in the squad of 14 or 15, or in the Test 12, or in the actual playing 11 itself. But when other Indians in London rang me up the following day to congratulate me and when I saw it all in the *Daily Telegraph* no more doubts were left.

SW. Don't you think it was rather overdue?

RS. I should think so. There were occasions in the past when I thought I would be picked. I thought I should have been in the tour party to England, but I was not. I have never felt bitter or discouraged at not being selected in the past. I was in England all the same and enjoyed the season with Hartlepool Cricket Club in the North Yorkshire South Durham League.

SW. How exactly are you looking forward to your Test debut against Sri Lanka?

RS. This will be just like any other important game for me. I have played important games in the past and as always, I will do my level best.

SW. One can see that the selectors are using the matches against the Sri Lankans as an opportunity to experiment with the youngsters for the coming more exacting campaigns in Pakistan and the West Indies.

RS. Yes, I am also hopefully looking forward to the Pakistan and West Indies tours.

SW. Abdul Qadir's success for Pakistan on their latest tour of England has revived interest in leg-spinners—at least in our sub-continent. What is your own view and how did you think Qadir came to

Rakesh Shukla—at a practice session on his return from England



occupy such an important place in Pakistan's thinking?

RS: Yes, I tend to share the view that Qadir's success has, in fact, revived interest in leg-spinners. As for the second part of the question, I believe captain Imran thought highly of Qadir. He has been in English cricket a long time and knows the weaknesses of their batsmen. Also, don't forget Intikhab, the manager. Intikhab himself had a very successful career as a leg-spinner for Surrey. He must have endorsed Imran's thinking. Both Imran and Intikhab know well the English weak points.

SW: How would you compare yourself with Qadir?

RS: I practise the art of leg-spin quite differently from Qadir. I bowl with a lower trajectory, or tight, making only occasional use of flight. The circumstances in which I have been bowling have called for greater economy. I have seldom been guilty of uneconomical bowling. Qadir's style is different. He tosses the ball higher. He bowls the top spinner and the flipper—both of which I also bowl. But I have an edge when it comes to bowling the wrong 'un, or the googly. I bowl a quicker wrong 'un. He bowls it slow, a flighted googly, which is not perfectly disguised. It can be spotted by any keen student of the game.

SW: And your batting? How is it that people have always talked of you only as a leg-spinner?

RS: I don't know, really. You can see my batting record. I have been scoring runs and have delivered the goods on most occasions for Delhi or any other team I have played for.

SW: But you must be aware of the criticism of your fielding and how people talk about your weight.

RS: That was only an excuse. I may not be a panther in the field, but I am quite a safe fielder in the close positions—as safe as any other. I am quite sound and safe and have taken quite a few difficult bat-pad catches. I have seen great fielders who have done great work in the field all day but in the end muffed crucial throw-ins or catches. Better to be safe and relaxed rather than flashy and spectacular.

SW: You are past 30 years in age already. How long do you think you can last at the Test level? The art of wrist spin is physically more exacting than that of finger spin. The shoulder has a bigger part to play in leg-spin.

RS: Quite right. But it is only a vague notion that wrist spinners fade away sooner than the finger spinners. It is not correct. True, there is a bigger load on the wrist spinners' shoulders. This is particularly true when it comes to bowling the wrong 'un. But practitioners of the art of leg-spin are careful to nurse their shoulder. If wrist spinners are careful and fit they can even last 20 years!

SW: You talked of fitness. One can



Shukla and his coach discuss a point of importance

see you look trimmer now than ever before. What are your fitness methods? One has your weight problems in mind when asking this.

RS: In the first place I never had any fitness problems. I have not sat out matches with pulled muscles or anything. Still, because of my weight I had my critics whom I silenced many years ago when I shifted to Delhi from Bihar. I trained hard and shed 20 kilos—coming down from 90 to 70. I have maintained it there since then. As for my fitness training, I'll tell you of the methods I followed in England. I played a lot of squash and did a lot of road running, in addition to the regular exercises and yoga. To achieve swiftness of movement I have also done "circuit training" with a stopwatch timing me. This type of training involves negotiating obstacles, going over or under them as quickly as possible.

SW: Do you agree that left-arm spinners have been responsible for the decline of the tribe of leg-spinners in the last decade or so?

RS: Captains have been laying great stress on economy. In their plans the left-arm spinner and the seamer have taken precedence over the leg spinner—who they think is not as economical. But leg spinners have in fact, proved that they are not all that expensive. In the last Ranji Trophy final, for example, my 60 odd overs cost less than three runs each—

about 2.5 in fact and I was more economical than even left-arm Alan Under.

SW: How did you get into the leg-spin business at a time when its stock was low?

RS: My brother Anand's influence really. I was a medium-pacer as a schoolboy at Allahabad before I came under his attention. Ours in fact is a family of leg spinners. My other brother K C Shukla is also a leg spinner. My nephew—Anand's son—has also taken to leg spin.

SW: People do not tend to take English League cricket too seriously. As one who has been in it for five seasons what do you say to that?

RS: English League cricket is serious, challenging business. It is not a picnic. Cricketer of the standing of Desmond Haynes (West Indies), Lance Cairns (New Zealand) and Albert Padmore (West Indies) were in rival clubs. Haynes, a top flight opening batsman, once found it hard to come by runs against amateur club bowlers. So it is quite serious. Professionals are expected to show results and to do that you have to be serious.

SW: Has your selection as a Test player increased your professional worth in the League?

RS: That's not the way it is. It is the results that matter—Test player or not.



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Hanut Singh—a living legend

THE greatest ever Indian player Ranjit Singhji of polo. Master tactician. Incomparable leader. These are the ways Rao Raja Hanut Singh of Jodhpur is described by polo veterans of India and abroad. "One of the greatest players ever produced," commented John Board Jack Gannon considered him "an absolute artiste." Major Kuldeep Garcha, member of the present Indian team that recently went abroad said, "The first question we were asked was about Hanut. "Everyone respects him. In fact, we got a terrific reception there only because of him."

This is not surprising if you measure Hanut's feats for a moment. At 21, he was a nine-goal player and he remained one till he was 39. He played actively till 68, holding a 5 goal rating which, incidentally, is the handicap of India's most accomplished players at present. Moreover, he played and coached polo players all over the world and groomed a number of world beaters.

To attain this high level of excellence Hanut used to put in endless hours of intensive and wearisome practice every day. Under the tutelage of his father Sir Pratap, Regent of Jodhpur, Hanut first learnt how to swing a mallet. And from a very early age he developed an abiding love for horses. He used to ride like an expert ("sits beautifully and rides like the wind," says an old article).

There is the story of a polo player, proud of his pony, who asked Hanut for his expert opinion on the horse. He rode it, but said nothing. When the owner persisted Hanut replied cryptically "Shoot it tomorrow morning." A 86 year old horse trainer, Khet Singh, who now looks after the polo ponies of the Maharaja of Jaipur, recalls "Rao Raja Sahib knew horses. He would get up at four every morning to personally supervise their feeding and training."

Hanut owned more than 40 ponies which were categorised according to merit and split into strings. Ordinary horses were used for practice while the quality ones—thoroughbreds like firefly, Snap, Zigzag—were kept in reserve for important games. Remembers Ramdhan, Hanut's syce, "He loved his horses. If we were careless with them he would hit us with his stick. But he was big-hearted, we were often rewarded too."

Besides horses, Hanut was equally meticulous about other polo equipment. His sticks were whippy, 53

inches with a 6½ to 7 ounce head, and were always made by one Keshu—who later built up a cinema hall and named it Polo Victory. Hanut popularised the "Jodhpuri" his breeches, and helped innovate the polo boot—flapless and big-heeled. Mangal Singh, his batman, always had things in order. Yet Hanut religiously checked all gear.

Everyday Hanut would play 15-17 chukkars and to further polish his unerring shots, spend substantial amount of time on the wooden horse hitting balls to a predetermined spot. At other times he would aim shots at the goal posts from different

angles. He used to play the entire day in Jodhpur, travel through the night in a car to Jaipur—300 kms away—practise there and return the following day to Jodhpur in time for polo again.

Such devotion and single-mindedness of purpose quickly made Hanut a champion player. His first major triumph came in 1921 when the Jodhpuri team clashed with Patiala for the Rutlam Cup. In this game 'izzat' more than anything else was at stake and in front of the Prince of Wales, the Viceroy and Lady Reading hundreds of princes and more than 1,00,000 cheering spectators Jodhpuri pipped Patiala 6-5.

Writing in *The Times*, London, Sir Percy Robinson described this 'Homeric battle'. Hanut scored a miraculous goal but Patiala led by a goal in the last chukka. The roar of voices was like summer thunder, important Major Generals and personages stood up waving hats and shouting themselves hoarse. The women screamed. Only Sir Percy sat immovable even in the last dramatic minute when Jodhpuri scored the goal. The horn sounded, the old man stood up, tears pouring down his cheeks.

Many more triumphs followed. In 1931, Hanut, Abheev Singh, Amar Singh (Master of the Horses) and the best polo ponies were "given" as 'dowry' by Maharaja Umaid Singh to the Jaipur Maharaja when he married a Jodhpuri princess. Jodhpuri never played again, but the Jaipur team swept everything in the world between 1930-39. Brain behind these successes was, of course, Hanut.

What made him such a polo giant? Well, many things—skill, discipline, devotion, and plenty of money. Commented one observer "In a game he was always superbly mounted and Rao Raja Sahib never had to bother about tax returns."

"Basically," said Thakur Kishan Singh who toured with Hanut, "He was a superb player, very accurate and had amazing ball control. Rarely did he make mistakes and his striking was incredibly effortless." Commented Garcha "Hanut's brain was tremendous, he was a master tactician and had a phenomenal capacity to control the game."

To Hanut polo was the most important thing in life. Before a tournament he would prepare meticulously by horses, train them, study his opponents, even their ponies. Said



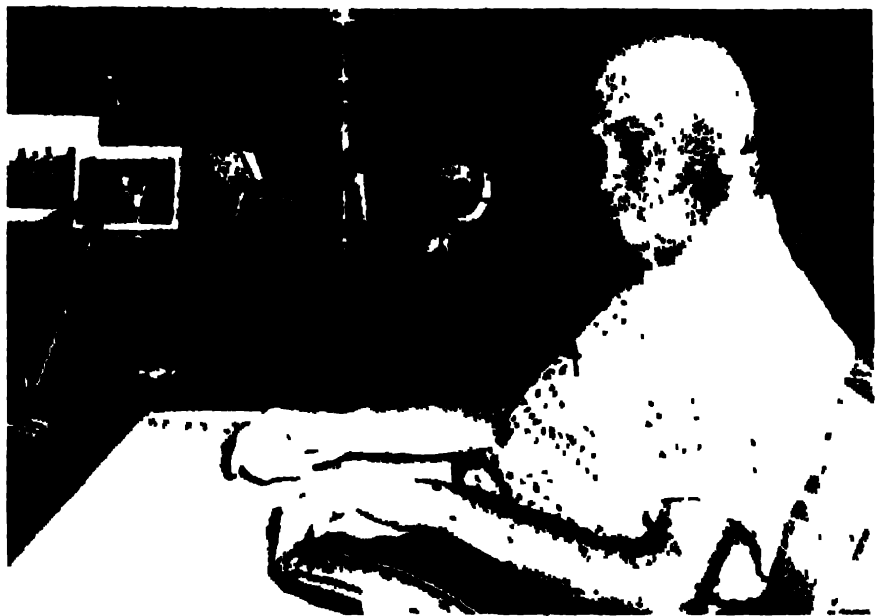
A 1928 photograph of the maestro

Kishan "He knew every minute detail. He gave us detailed instructions to the extent that we were told which pony to play with in a particular chukker. No wonder when the English team was to tour the United States, Lord Cowdrey, Hurlingham's President, consented to sanction money only on condition that Hanut accompanied the team."

Actually, even in those days Hanut's attitude was absolutely 'professional'. Polo, he felt, must always be played to a pattern. It is a team game, he used to tell the players. Says Bijai, Hanut's son, who played a great deal with him: "Father stressed the team game aspect and was intolerant if someone disregarded this. After every game there was a team meeting. He always wanted to know why you had won or lost."

During a game Hanut was a fierce competitor. It's said that he played with hot blood and a cool head. In a game he neither gave or asked for a quarter. Elaborates Bijai: "He played to win. It was as simple as that. Playing with father was no fun. It was business. Polo was his profession, it was his life." During a match he was constantly alliter, shouting instructions and yelling rebukes. "Bloody fellow wake up," he'd say, recalls Kishan.

Occasionally Hanut would do more than merely yell. "Quick, not bad tempered—he was. If you missed a sitter, he'd swipe you with his stick



Hanut Singh sitting in his room

and say Hanut's son can't do this," reminisces Bijai. Added another polo fan: "The Jodhpur boys played rough. They were desperate to win. If someone in their team made mistakes they would forget about the ball and run after him!"

Hanut's commitment to polo was so complete that he subjected even his private life to stringent discipline. Never fond of alcohol, he drank only an occasional whisky

soda or the customary swig of champagne from the winner's cup. He slept early and was known to leave parties midway, if a game was on the following day. Moreover, he was very punctual.

Says Bijai: "Father was a very strict man. Tolerated no nonsense. Not a great talker, whenever he spoke it was something serious. It was never frivolous. For example, he would never read love stories." Only thing he indulged in was good clothes. Extremely fastidious, he was always immaculately dressed—mostly Savill Row—and the father once voted him one of the best dressed men in London.

Hanut's best years as a player were between the Wars. His form waned gradually, but his reputation as a master never dimmed as Hanut always had a knack for picking and coaching promising youngsters. Dickie Mountbatten received his first polo lesson in Jodhpur from him and greats like Hipwood, Sinclair Hill, Patrick Campbell, Bob Skeene, Eduardo Moore—all 9 or 10 goal players—were groomed by Hanut.

His ability to spot talent was amazing. Watching Tonaro play, a 3 goal player, Hanut correctly predicted that he would eventually merit a 10 goal rating. For his own Ratanada team Hanut chose youngsters and still succeeded in winning the coveted Cowdrey Park Cup two years running.

Hanut Singh's has really been a glorious innings. Learnt riding at 5 and served in the first war when only 14—his father, Sir Pratap, thought a Rajput's son is never too young to fight. "He," wrote Douglas Gray, "symbolises all that is best about the galloping game." Surely, if polo is the game of kings, Hanut Singh was its most illustrious monarch.

AMRIT MATHUR

The game is dead now

RECENTLY this writer met the railing Hanut at his home, adjacent to which his son Hari is building a 56-room centrally air conditioned hotel. He was sitting in a room full of polo pictures, the cupboard crammed with trophies won in a career spanning 56 years. Outside stood, forlorn, the wooden horse used by the great player to perfect his polo skills. Hanut spoke on various subjects in a soft voice often pausing to overcome the strain.

Excerpts

On Polo's decline in India:

India gave the game to the world, but now it is dead. All the factors that made polo grow here have gone. The Maharajas, the British cavalry, the Indian cavalry, the horse trainers. There are very few teams now and the boys in the army keep playing among themselves. You don't improve unless you play with better players. Nowadays there are no good players to look up to.

On the importance of the horse in polo:

It's the all-important factor

The pony must gallop, stop suddenly and change directions. Without a well-trained pony a player is handicapped. If you don't reach the ball how do you hit it?

On Argentina's success:

There are more horses than trees in Argentina. The people there take a keen interest in breeding horses. They are good riders and they start playing at a very early age, even when in school.

On his achievements:

My greatest achievement was becoming a 9-goal player at 21 and holding that rating for about 20 years. In 1921, we beat Patiala in the presence of the Prince of Wales and fulfilled my father's dream. We were the underdogs as before this game Patiala were virtually unbeatable. They were a great side, but we played better. They were a bit unsporting also: Chanda Singh sat on the sidelines crying and didn't come to receive the runners-up trophy.

In England, I chose three youngsters to play with me, but still won the Gold Cup twice in succession.

COUNT DOWN 8

ANY doubts there might have been about the brand of the balls to be used in the Asian Games soccer tournament were dispelled by a telex message from the International Football Federation (FIFA) to the New Delhi organisers after the World Cup in Spain. It will be Tango manufactured by the West German firm of Adidas.

Mikasa of Japan, with whom the organisers had originally entered into an agreement for the supply of the footballs, will, however, provide the balls for the water polo, volleyball, basketball and handball tournaments. The contract provides for the free supply of 500 balls for each of the disciplines plus 60,000 dollars as royalty.

The objection to the Mikasa soccer balls came from the Malaysian dominated Asian Football Confederation. Many an eyebrow was raised because Mikasa, like Adidas, is also on FIFA's approved list. How could an affiliate question the choice of a ball which had the approval of the world body? But after certain developments at Madrid, where top Indian football officials were also present, the matter was settled in favour of the German firm's product. According to FIFA's message to Pragati Maidan, They (FIFA) will themselves supply the Tango balls free of charge.

This has left the organisers and Mikasa with no choice, for the agreement between them — at least as far as soccer went — was subject to the final approval of FIFA who have chosen Tango also for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The Indian team have been training with Mikasa balls and there are still over 200 brand new ones left in the Asiad stores.

Tango or Mikasa, what difference does it make? There are two schools of thought. According to one, the difference is largely in the mind, or psychological. The other holds that the German ball is, without doubt, much the superior, meeting the most rigorous standards including a computer test. The AFC officials are of the view that the Mikasa ball is not quite suitable because of its higher bounce. Incidentally, the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games Football Tournament was played with Japanese Iachikara balls.

As for the lay Indian football fan, right now in low spirits because of the national team's disappointing performance in the Merdeka Cup — he regards the hair splitting over the brand of the ball with cynical amusement. No change of brand will help our wayward forwards keep.

If the Indian soccer fan is worried about the lack of success of his team, his counterpart across the western fence seems to be without any hope at all. There was a terse announcement from Kuala Lumpur that Pakistan had withdrawn from the Merdeka Tournament at the last moment, forcing the organisers to readjust the groupings. Now however, the real reason for the withdrawal is known.

According to the West German coach currently supervising the training of the Pakistan team, its standard was not up to the mark. In his expert opinion the team would have cut a sorry figure at Kuala Lumpur. It was on his advice that the Pakistan Football Federation pulled the team out at the eleventh hour. As in India in large parts of Pakistan also it is soccer that is the number one spectator sport.

— not hockey. Even as the last Asia Cup Hockey Tournament was on at Karachi, a football match in the same city drew a larger crowd.

It is sad to read a Pakistan news agency writer advise in a report that "it is of no use to send the team to the ninth Asian Games where almost all leading teams from Asian countries will be taking part." He goes on to exhort the Pakistan Football Federation to first try to raise the standard of the game within the country by drawing up long term training cum coaching programmes at various levels so that a national team of true representative standard could emerge.

With the live telecasting of the World Cup matches the interest in the game has immensely increased and many Pakistani youngsters are seen playing football in the streets. It is now up to the Pakistan Football Federation to utilise this opportunity and make such plans which could help raise the standard of the game," the writer says in conclusion.

However well meaning the writer may be, it will come as a great disappointment to Indian soccer crowds who are buying up tickets as fast as they are put up for sale, if the Pakistan Football Federation were to follow his advice and withdraw their team from the Asian Games also. It is a long time since a Pakistan soccer team played in Delhi.



HUNT

QUARTZ ELECTRONIC WATCHES

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The exact time!!



Watch Division



Timekeepers to the Nation

Regional round-up

PUNE

Raj Singh's fight for life

SUBEDAR Raj Singh, an instructor in the Army Ordnance Corps (Secunderabad) is without doubt one of the best javelin throwers India has ever produced. But it is indeed, sad and pathetic to find this cheerful man in bed fighting a grim battle against terminal cancer at the Military Command Hospital, Pune.

In February this year Raj Singh had a malignant tumour on his left hip which was operated upon immediately and after three months' treatment at the Malignant Diseases Centre he was discharged, but only to find himself in bed once again this August with the same killer disease having dangerously spread to his lungs.

Before going to see him, this correspondent prepared himself to meet a defeated man, but the lanky Sikh, who donned India and Services colours in his brilliant career, never seemed to have given up hope.

Born on May 8, 1944, in Mauran Village of Singur District, Punjab, the young Raj Singh matriculated from the Mauran Government Middle School where he took to athletics at an early age. Of all the events he liked javelin throw the most. He joined the Army in 1963 and soon made it to the Services team for the Nationals.

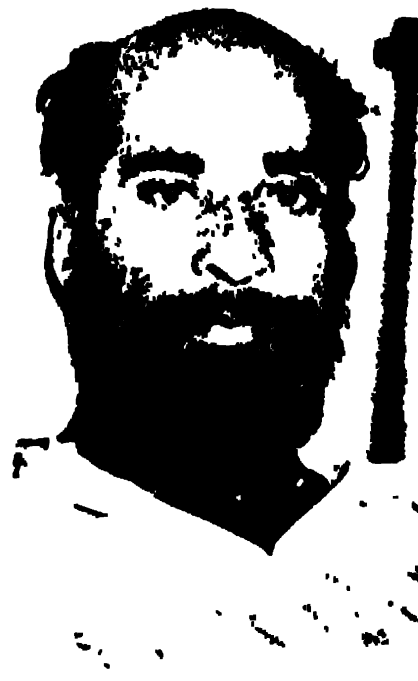
Raj Singh's most memorable moment came in the year 1967 at the Bangalore Nationals when he stood first in the javelin throw event way ahead of his rivals. In his long career he was crowned national champion a record nine times and got silver and bronze medals on several occasions. He represented Services from 1965 to 1981.

After his brilliant performances at the Nationals, the selectors could not ignore him and in 1970 he was included in the Indian team which took on a visiting West German side. Raj finished third in two of the Test matches. Immediately afterwards he went on a tour of Russia. At Moscow and Odessa where some meets were held he stood ninth and as Raj humbly put it "The Russian grounds and equipment confused the Indians considerably and our spikes were of no use on the modern tartan tracks. Moreover, the foreign competitors were of a very high standard."

Raj Singh created history when in the Asian trials in 1973 at Patiala he flung the spear to a record distance of 70.18 mts which till today has not been surpassed by any Indian. But even after such a splendid perform-

ance, disappointment was still in store for him. In spite of a promise that he would be taken on the tour of Philippines for the Asian Athletic Meets, internal politics among the officials stood in his way and an enthusiastic Raj Singh was told at a New Delhi guest house, just one day before departure, that Gopal Kidyoor (Maharashtra), a younger athlete, was being preferred to him. The NIS authorities in Patiala then told a depressed Raj that he was 30 and too old.

Fortunately for him Services never dropped him and he continued to shine at the Nationals. When the Sri Lanka team came in 1976 for four athletic tests, Raj Singh volunteered to take part in both javelin and shot putt events and crowned himself with glory finishing first in all the



four 'tests' in both the events. But a modest Raj would tell you today "That was possible because the Lankans were no good and it was a cake walk for me."

What impressed me most about the Subedar was the typical army bravery that he exhibited in his fight for life. Doctors attending on him told this correspondent that as the cancer had spread to his lungs, chances of survival are a hundred to one against him. Raj Singh is facing his misfortune like a fearless warrior and is still very confident that "If I die, I will die on the playground and nowhere else. I am not worried about myself, but I am concerned about the future of my family." Tears welled up in his eyes for the first time during the interview when he said this. Raj

Singh has his wife and two children, a daughter Chiddarpal (14) and son Jagtar (11) who are now being looked after by Major Joginder Singh, former Asian Gold Medalist, at Secunderabad. It has also been reported that coaches, athletes and trainees of the NIS (National Institute of Sports) Patiala have joined hands to give financial aid to the ailing sportsman. Many of them have appealed to the former international star Eddie Sequiera of Bombay to help them collect funds for the aid of Raj Singh and his family.

RAHUL CHANDAWARKAR

BANGALORE

Joy ride

IT was mud, sweat and joy for Vikram Kapoor, among the two-wheelers and O P Gupta among the four-wheelers—the deserving winners of the Maiden Rally, organised by the newly formed Indian Automotive Sports Club. The KF-September 300 Motor Rally held last Sunday was a thumping success, attracting as many as 42 two-wheelers and 29 four-wheelers.

O P Gupta and team from Mysore, rode into the top position with just 828 penalty points, followed by K I Joseph with 1013 penalty points. The first place among the two-wheelers went to debutant Vikram Singh, a businessman by profession and S Banappa who tallied 1,121 penalty points. They were followed by Ravi Jouhari (1137 points) and M Ramesh (1346 points) in the second and third positions respectively.

Gautam Kadam and B M Ravi, winners of the Karnataka 1000, were not so lucky this time. Their vehicles played truant and Gautam's mobike snapped after covering just 65 of the prescribed 274 kms. Shant Prasad and Ramesh who rode in third proved to be as capable a pair of mechanics as drivers. They rode nearly 200 kms of the route by manually operating the accelerator, as the cable had slipped out. An interesting but very inconveniencing sidelight, was that there was a private car which rode alongside the participants, advising them to take the wrong turning all the time.

There was an all-woman team of Mrs Veena Shivaram and Tanu Merchant in the two-wheelers section, who completed the rally despite being nearly thrown off their vehicle, at one stage. Another lady in the fray was Mrs Vasavi Vickram, acting as navigator for the first time, for her husband.

The rally went off smoothly and without any hitch, thanks to the

meticulous planning undertaken by Ravi Gupta, president of IASC and his team of co-workers.

Hot-headed hockey

ST. JOSEPH'S Arts and Science College, proved they were the best in the city collegiate circles when they won the prestigious Major C R Ponappa Memorial inter collegiate hockey trophy, by defeating St. John's Medical College by a solitary goal.

St. John's the defending champions did not have a striker worth the name in their ranks and hence all their good work came to nought. The black spot on the tournament was the manhandling of umpire Gupta by the Cauvery College team during the keen semi-final match between that college and St. John's Medical College. Umpire Krishnamurthy's decision in awarding a goal in the tie breaker, led to a protest walk out by the Cauvery team. The St. John's team was then declared winners 5-6. The Cauvery side then came back and attacked umpire Gupta with their hockey sticks, by the former luckily escaped unhurt.

Later, the executive committee of the Karnataka State Hockey Association decided to debar the Cauvery College team (Gomkopal) from competing in any of its tournaments for a period of two years. It also decided to debar M A Srinivas the main cause for the uproar for a similar period.

Committee's sparring contest

THE storm created over the removal of P. S. B. Naidu from the post of "honorary secretary" of the Karnataka Amateur Boxing Association in April has now blown over and calm has been restored with the reinstatement of Naidu as secretary.

President Narasinga Rao had removed Naidu, on a charge that the latter had illegally opened a separate account and had spent Rs 2,900 out of the Rs 3,000 given by the Sports Directorate. Mr Naidu had explained that since he got no co-operation from the treasurer, he had to do so in order to finance the team. The President has accepted Mr Naidu's explanation and has revoked the suspension order.

SHANTI MOHANRANGAM

MADRAS

Tamil Nadu juniors to the fore

LITTLE seems to be going right for the senior cricketers of the State but the Tamil Nadu juniors gave a

fine performance in defeating Karnataka by four wickets in their Inter Association Cricket tie for the P. Ramachandra Rao Trophy. These matches are important in that a good performance here could well see a player get into the State squad for the Ranji Trophy matches. And one player who has already done enough to warrant selection is schoolboy W. V. Raman. He has been having a splendid league season so far and in this match took six wickets for 56 runs with his left arm spinners in the Karnataka second innings. Karnataka scored 110 and 281 and Tamil Nadu made 219 and 174 for six. A fine century by Nandan for Karnataka was in vain.

Hari, yet again

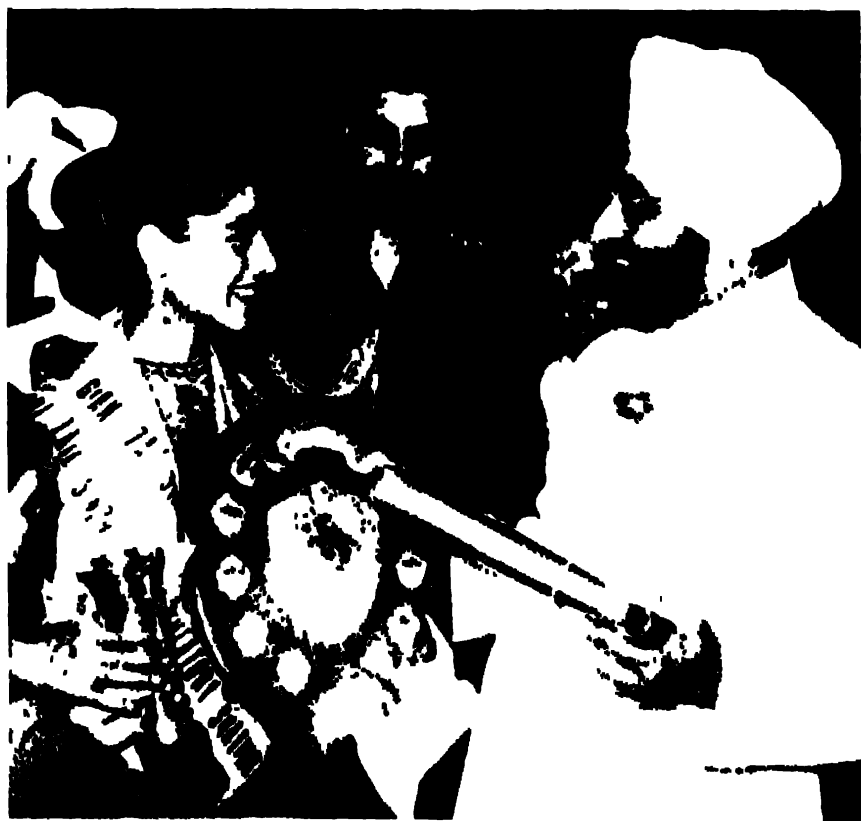
FORMER international R. Hari is in fine form this season and has won a good number of titles both in the city and elsewhere in the country. He added one more to his bulging bag when he won the Accountant General's Office Recreation Club table tennis tournament beating Ravi Venkatesh in the final. He however had to save off a stiff challenge before winning 21-19, 21-16, 19-21, 17-21, 21-12. Hari finished the protracted tussle with a flourish taking nine points in a row in the decider (from 12-12) to win the match.

Keen Wills Open

The Wills Open Golf Championship was held at the Guindy Golf Link from Sept 9 to 12. Before Rothas Singh, the 26-year-old Delhi professional won the title—and the Rs 3000 First Prize along with it—the lead changed hands so rapidly at the end of every day that the finish was very much in suspense almost till the last hole.

It looked like Pilling, after a sluggish start on the opening day, was slowly coming into his own. But he lapsed into errors on the penultimate day. He was even sitting pretty after eleven holes on this day but he played badly on the home ward holes. Rothas, with his unspectacular but steady golf worked his way up and took over the lead. At the end of the third day, he had an aggregate of 220 while Pilling was one stroke behind. Sadanand Basadiah and Ram Dayal of Delhi were jointly in third place with 224. But everything on the final day pointed to a shootout between Pilling and Rothas.

The keen battle, expectedly, looked forward to, never came about. On the final day, Rothas was completely in command. In so poor touch was Pilling that even when Rothas faltered—as he did on the seventh and eighth holes—he still remained ahead. Despite the intense pressure and heat, Rothas fought



SPEED AND ARTISTRY President Giani Zail Singh congratulates Mrs. Jagdeep Bhatt who bagged the double title of Speed and Artistic Queen at the Giani Zail Singh Open Skating Tournament held in Chandigarh.

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Mafatlal
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gamely on and brought off some fine play on two bunkers on the 12th and 14th holes, which somewhat offset his indifferent form earlier. Pilling's miserable showing however continued and he shot a five over par 77. Rothas on the other hand, had a steady course in the four rounds—74, 72, 74 and 73—and the professional from the Delhi Golf Club clearly deserved his triumph. His total aggregate of 293 was a tribute to steady, consistent golf. Pilling, on 298 slid to third position while the runner-up place was taken by Sadanand who had an impressive final round of 73 to finish with 297—four strokes behind the champion.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

TRIVANDRUM

MLA's kick and foul?

KERALA MLAs are very sporting whether they play on the ground or shout in the Assembly. The honourable members, like they often ignore the Speaker's repeated calls for order inside the Assembly, also ignored the referee's whistle on the field. They kicked, headed and often failed in their bid to drive home the ball. The football match, led by RSP's K Pankajakshan and the IUML MLA Koriambayil Ahmed Haji was played at the University Stadium, Trivandrum in connection with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Kerala Assembly. The match ended 2-1 in favour of Mr Pankajakshan's Eleven and rightly so, for he is the president of Kerala Sports Council.

Money mystery!

THE 38th Santosh Trophy Football Tournament was held at Trichur in January last. Ten months have since gone by. But the accounts connected with it have not yet been finalised and furnished. The real cause of the delay remains a mystery and the auditors and the organisers accuse each other for the inordinate delay. Meanwhile, the Trichur Municipal Council protested against the undue delay in bringing out the corrected accounts. A resolution to this effect has been unanimously passed by the Council in its last meeting held recently. The Municipality has spent Rs. 23 lakhs for flood lighting the stadium. There were also allegations from certain quarters that the delay in presenting the accounts was due to the misappropriation of funds.

It must be recalled here that when the Santosh Trophy was conducted at Calicut a couple of years back, misappropriation of funds and discrepancy in vouchers to the tune of several lakhs of rupees were de-

tected but all the accusations and public demand for an enquiry into the matter finally fizzled out due to the pressure and involvement of prominent politicians and their barons. Mr T. O. Abdulla was the president of Kerala Football Association at that time.

Doubts have risen here also whether the same fate will fall upon the accounts of the Trichur Championship too. It is time for the AIFF and the Government to enquire into the swindling of funds. The authorities sitting at the top should enquire into the allegation, including the "Calicut Santosh Scandal" and find a suitable solution to the malady. This is the need of the hour to save our sports.

M. P. SURESH

CALCUTTA

Same old game

THE Indian Football Association has its own style of functioning. Or should it be said that the association takes decisions based on whims rather adhering to good counsel. When the Bengal junior team regained the prestigious Dr B. C. Roy Trophy at Pondicherry the players and their coach Dulal Bhattacharjee were applauded by the IFA for the achievement.

Dulal Bhattacharjee is an NIS Bangalore diploma holder and was a former sub-junior, junior and senior assistant coach. So there is hardly any doubt about his ability. And the triumphant return from Pondicherry makes him the automatic choice as coach of the same team which went to Delhi to participate in the Trial Games.

The normal procedure of appointing a coach for a tournament is a decision taken by the IFA governing body. Strange though it might seem the team left Calcutta accompanied by coach Swaraj Ghosh and not Dulal Bhattacharjee. And that too without the governing body's consent. It is learnt how did this occur and what was the motive behind this?

What was more surprising was that the coaching committee comprising Santo Mitra, Subhas Saha, veteran Achyut Banerjee and Pasupati Bhattacharjee did not know about the strange nomination. They had already taken for granted that Dulal Bhattacharjee would make the trip to Delhi. The coaching panel has expressed their displeasure and said that this is nothing new. Such things have happened before. In disgust Pasupati Bhattacharjee tendered his resignation but some IFA officials pleaded to him to withdraw his resignation which Mr Bhattacharjee did.

SUBHASH SAKHAI

Calcutta Club Library LMOB win sans competition

THIS was the 50th year the All India and South Asia rugby tournament was being played for. The event is held alternately in Bombay and Calcutta and 1982 was the turn of the 'City of Palaces' to play host to the teams taking part.

Hosts Calcutta Cricket and Football Club sporting smart red-and-white jerseys kicked off with a none to confident win against another Calcutta team, City Old Rugger.

Day two was quite different. First, a young and enthusiastic LMOB Tigers outran the weighty Maharashtra State Police, one of the top Bombay teams. Worse was yet to come for the visitors. The second seeds Bombay Gymkhana lost to Calcutta Police in a scrappy encounter.

Bombay Gymkhana had earlier won the Bombay Cup, but many of their good players decided not to make the trip to Calcutta. It is learnt from reliable sources that some of the prominent players had boycotted the Bombay Gymkhana touring party because Wilson College who the organisers have banned in Bombay had been invited to play in Calcutta.

But whatever their reasons, the 'boycotters' should have shown themselves good teammen and come to Calcutta. Rugby is already a dying sport and blowing up such issues do not help the sport in anyway. Nevertheless, Lebourne Callaghan, the veteran team manager deserves congratulating for keeping the Bombay Gymkhana flag flying.

Coming back to the tournament proper, La Martiniere Old Boys weaved their artistic way into the semi-finals by notching up a massive 62-4 win over the hosts.

In the first of the semi-finals which for all practical purposes was the final was the encounter between LMOB and the Armenians. The 'Old Boys' were never really pushed and won 19-0. The second semi-final was a cliff hanger. The LMOB Tigers and Calcutta Police scored two penalties a piece for the score to read 6-6 at the end of normal playing time. In sudden death F. Fernandez scored a try and the Tigers had to pinch themselves to believe they were in the final.

Rugby has its close knit band of regular fans in the city and certainly deserves under publicity and a greater following. The organisers would have done well to hold a Press conference before the commencement of the tournament. The fourth IFA state can certainly help to promote rugby in India. Nevertheless, all kudos to Dada Osman, Dick Thomas, Harry Naidu and their other organisers for a well run competition.

P. SURESH CHAND

Follow-on: compulsory or optional?

In and around 1835, the 'no option' clause regarding follow-on made it compulsory for a side to bat again if they were 100 or more runs behind in the first innings.

Despite differences of opinion among players and officials and a number of controversies, the law existed for about 20 years. Then, strangely, the follow-on limit was further reduced from 100 to 80 runs. There was no justifiable explanation for reducing the limit. The result was quite frequently teams conceded runs deliberately to prevent the other side from following on. This was done to avoid batting last (fourth innings on the worn out pitch).

Mr Gerald Brudribb, a noted historian, says "Hall's XI had scored 118 for nine in reply to Shaw's Australian XI's total of 220. As a draw seemed likely, Shaw's men were anxious that Shaw's side should add at least another 23 runs and so avoid the follow-on as they did not wish to field again. They bowled and fielded carelessly to the last two batsmen (who also did not wish to have to field again). But the slackness became so obvious that F Peate, the last batsman in, decided to thwart them by deliberately knocking his wicket down. A dispute naturally arose as to whether Peate could be out striking his wicket after the ball had passed it. After 40 minutes' of absurd argument, Peate was

allowed to be out and so Shaw's XI had to field out the rest of play."

Teams and team officials made a mockery of this foolish law. Incidents—some bordering on unsportsmanship—continued to take place causing irritation and reducing the game to a farce. The authorities eventually woke up and realised that the law needed modification. After prolonged deliberations, a provisional alternative was tried out in Australia during the 1893/94 season. The follow-on was made optional. The MCC, which met in 1894, however, did not approve of the alteration, but it agreed to raise the limit from 80 to 120 runs.

But it did not make any difference. Teams continued to take advantage of the absurdity of the 'no option' follow-on law

and in a State match in Australia (1896/97) Hugh Trumble delivered no fewer than eight no-balls to prevent South Australia from following on.

The incident continued to occur even when the MCC eventually passed a resolution in 1900 making the follow-on optional as also raising the limit from 120 to 150 runs. Since then there was no modification until May 1922 when the Australian Cricket Board, of their own accord, raised the limit of follow-on from 150 to 200 runs.

One of the most remarkable instances of follow-on took place in 1946 when the Indian XI scored 376 for six declared and Glamorgan replied with 149. Glamorgan followed on immediately. What was remarkable was that the Glamorgan skipper asked the last two batsmen to open the

second innings. And as luck would have it, Judge got a 'pair'. Twice he was bowled by Sarwat on two successive balls. Judge came in to bat at number 11 and then at number 1.

After many amendments the present follow-on law reads "In a two innings match, the side which bats first and leads by 200 runs in a match of five days or more, by 150 runs in a three-day or four day match, by 100 runs in a two-day match or by 75 runs in a one-day match, shall have the option of requiring the other side to follow their innings."

"If no play takes place on the first day of a match of two or more days' duration, the law will be operative in accordance with the number of days' play remaining from the actual start of the match."

Here are some problems

Q. The fielding side continues to indulge in unfair tactics. What should the umpire do?

A. Law 42 'unfair play' (sub-clause 3) says "The umpires shall intervene with out appeal by calling and signalling 'dead ball' in the case of unfair play, but should not otherwise interfere with the progress of the game except as required to do so by the laws."

Q. The bowler or fielder keeps trying to lift the seam. What should the umpire do?

A. Lifting of seam is forbidden. The umpire should change the ball and take one of similar condition.

Q. Can any member of the fielding side polish the ball?

A. The law, as amended, says that any member of the fielding side may polish the ball provided that such polishing wastes no time and that no artificial substance is used.

Q. A close-in fielder keeps cat-calling or trying to talk to another close-in fielder, while the batsman is concentrating before facing the ball. Can the batsman object and how will the umpire prevent the concerned fielder from causing such disturbance?

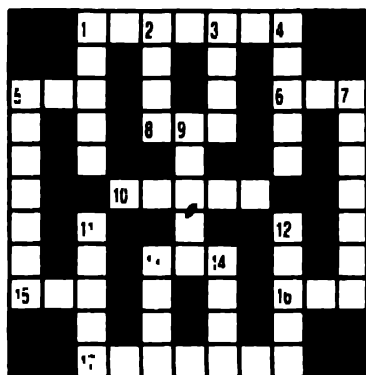
A. Even without an objection by the batsman, the umpire, under the latest laws, is justified in intervening and shall call and signal "dead ball" if, in his opinion, any player of the fielding side disturbs the striker, while he is receiving a ball.



Crossword

MUDAR

166



ACROSS

- 1 Prolific golf writer has something to share with the missing link man (1 6)
- 5 This faylor went as a rebel to South Africa earlier (3)
- 6 That which helps the bowlers in many Test centres at the start or play (3)
- 8 The result when each side in cricket finishes with the same score (3)
- 10 Sports writer who begins with an iron staff (5)
- 13 This Maskell was recently awarded an OBE for his service to tennis (3)
- 15 What a punter takes before a race (3)
- 16 What a Sugar Robinson and a Sugar Leonard also possess (3)
- 17 Cricketer Barrington's first name (7)

DOWN

- 1 The googly as it is called in Australia (5)
- 2 Seasoned veteran of Spanish hockey begins with the ante meridian (4)
- 3 An unreachable cricket delivery (4)
- 4 What cricketer Pullar of England was affectionately called (5)
- 5 The most unpunctual cricket stroke? (4 3)
- 7 The football centre in England begins with a collective word (7)
- 9 Place of origin of kho-kho (5)
- 11 A cricketing Patel quite popular in England though not Brijesh (5)
- 12 Month in which the All England Badminton is held has something to do with striding ahead (5)
- 13 Association footballer for Everton and England who made five international appearances in 1927 (4)
- 14 A game of pins (4)

Excellent 20-18, Good 17-15,
Fair 14-12

Question box

Shashikant Rungta, Calcutta

Q After the 'toss' is made by the two captains, who is supposed to pick up the coin from the ground?

A Since the toss is made by the homeside captain with his own coin he himself will have to pick up the coin irrespective of whether he loses or wins it

Nadeem Shaikh, New Jalna

Q Please give me the Test record of Imran Khan

A He has played in 40 Tests 65 innings, eight times not out 1542 runs with 123 as his highest score 27.05 as his average, one century five fifties four ducks, 11 catches, 10,587 balls 358 maiden overs 4587 runs conceded, 179 wickets 25.62 as his average 12 times with five or more wickets in an innings and twice with ten or more in a match and has captained Pakistan thrice

Master Niku, Babu, Tina, Cuttack

Q What is G. R. Vishwanath's date of birth?

A He was born on 12 February 1959

Bisweshwar Mohanty, Jagatsinghpur

Q When and where did G. R. Vishwanath and Zaheer Abbas make their Test debuts?

A G. R. Vishwanath made his Test debut in the Test against Australia at Kanpur in 1969-70 while Zaheer Abbas entered the Test arena for Pakistan in their first Test against New Zealand at Karachi in 1969-70

Sunil Kumar Das Adhikary, Baruan

Q What are the dates of birth of James Lillywhite (England), D. W. Gregory of Australia, O. P. Dunnell of South Africa, R. K. Nunes of West Indies, T. C. Lowry of New Zealand, C. K. Nayudu of India and A. H. Kardar of Pakistan?

A James Lillywhite was born on 23 February, 1942; D. W. Gregory on April 1845; O. P. Dunnell on 15 July 1856; R. K. Nunes on 7 June 1894; T. C. Lowry on 17 February, 1898; C. K. Nayudu on 31 October 1895 and A. H. Kardar on 17 January 1925

SOLUTION 165



Babul Daulagupu Hailong, Assam

Q Who has scored the maximum number of fours in an innings of a Test?

A As many as 52 in his score of 310 not out were hit by J. H. Edrich of England in the third Test against New Zealand at Leeds in 1965

N. G. Chandak, Solapur

Q What are the world record partnerships for each wicket?

A For the first wicket—413 by V. Man- kad and P. Roy of India against New Zealand at Madras in 1955-56. Second Wicket—451 by W. H. Ponsford and D. G. Bradman of Australia versus Eng- land at The Oval in 1934. Third wicket— 370 by W. J. Edrich and D. C. S. Compton of England versus South Africa at Lord's 1947. Fourth wicket—411 by P. B. H. May and M. C. Cowdrey of England versus the West Indies at Birmingham in 1957. Fifth wicket—405 by S. G. Barnes and D. G. Bradman of Australia against England at Sydney 1946-47. Sixth wicket—346 by J. H. Fingleton and D. G. Bradman of Australia versus England at Melbourne 1936-37. Seventh wicket—347 by D. Atkinson and C. Depeiza of West Indies against Australia at Bridgetown 1954-55. Eighth wicket—246 by L. E. G. Ames and G. O. Allen for England off New Zealand at Lord's 1931. Ninth wicket— 190 by Asif Iqbal and Intikhab Alam of Pakistan against England at The Oval 1967. Tenth wicket—151 by B. F. Hastings and R. C. Collinge of New Zealand versus Pakistan at Auckland 1972-73

Quiz

Harjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Find from within the following non- senses the names of internationally famous soccer stars. (Both name and surname are there in each case and they are to be written separately.)

- 1 SO ALI OR SOP
- 2 MADE A GOD ON AIR
- 3 F FIND ZOO
- 4 PLAIN MILE ITCH
- 5 AGE RISE SLAIN
- 6 OLD VALERI SO SAD
- 7 GET CLAD IOU LINE
- 8 BAN OI COIN TRAIN
- 9 SKIP BAR ER TILTER
- 10 DEAR MITRA COLL

ANSWERS

- 1 MARCO TARDELLI
- 2 PIERRE LITTBARSKI
- 3 ANTONIO CABRINI
- 4 CLAUDIO GENTILE
- 5 OSVALDO ARDILES
- 6 ALAIN GIRESSSE
- 7 MICHEL PLATINI
- 8 DINO ZOFF
- 9 DIEGO MARADONA
- 10 PAOLO ROSSI

A Two

A You may write to them care Australian Cricket Control Board Cricket House 245 George Street Sydney NSW (Australia)

A Victoria

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It is not as if a higher over rate cannot be achieved. When a mandatory over rate of 16 per hour was enforced by the ICCB in the recent series in England, both teams (England, with 4 seamers in their side) bowled the daily quota of 96 overs quite comfortably. It is high time that the BCCI introduces this ruling in Test matches played in India, so that the paying public is not cheated of its due.

Certain other remediable factors which contribute to the slow pace of Test cricket in India are:

1) The frequency with which a ball loses its shape and the delay involved in finding a suitable substitute.

2) The elaborate and comic ritual associated with the 'drinks interval'—what with trolleys and liveried waiters. For instance, on the third day of the Test match between India and Sri Lanka, rain restricted the post-lunch session to 75 minutes. Nevertheless, a drinks break of 10 minutes was

enjoyed at the spectator's expense.

3) While Test cricket all over the world is played over six hours a day, in India we still play for only 5½ hours, apparently on the pretext that in some centres it gets dark early! **DR P PADMA KUMAR, Madras**

The neutrality question

EAGERLY look forward to the India-Pakistan Test series as a lover and fan of cricket. But as a self-respecting Indian I would like to make a suggestion to your good self for the above series to be played with umpires from neutral countries. I suggest that you should insist for umpires from any other cricket playing country mutually agreeable to both sides to avoid humiliation of Indian players.

I fully realise that such Test series are played in the interests of sports and also to develop friendship and goodwill among the participating countries.

My above suggestion may appear to be very odd at first sight but experience shows that all Tests played till date have generated only bitterness among the participants and the cricket loving public of both the countries and the nett result has only been trading of mutual accusations of unfair practices on the part of umpires. Once umpiring is kept out of Indian and/or Pakistani hands the major irritant will be removed. I feel that if the Pakistani authorities refuse neutral umpiring the series itself may be cancelled rather than let our boys be humiliated and insulted.

PRAVEEN DAMODAR, Coimbatore

(Copies also sent to Shri Buta Singh and Shri Wankhede)

Disheartening

THE stepmotherly attitude shown by the AIR towards the Sri Lankan cricket side during the Madras Test was disheartening. The inadequate coverage deprived many listeners of the opportunity of listening to skipper Gavaskar getting his 25th Test century. The commentary should have been broadcast on other frequencies also. In the greater interest of the popularity of the game in the country these sort of mistakes should not be repeated in the future.

G PURNA RAO, Sonepuri

AIILR tuning in to the commentary during the Madras Test I was convinced that Indian broadcasting is not up to the mark. Moreover, for a listener like me, I found Hindi quite unwelcome and also incongruous in a game of English styles and mannerisms. To be a good commentator you need not have to be a veteran cricketer. The only requirement should be a sound knowledge of the game and, of course, a good voice. I cannot understand how the commentators for the Madras Test were selected when there were others who could have easily been tried. By

the latter group I mean Ashis Ray, Anant Setalvad, Kishore Bhimani, Sushil Doshi, Dicky Rutnagar and Dr Narottam Puri. One of the remedies could be to select a Test panel of four commentators with one as a stand-by and inclusive of an expert commentator to go around the Test centres. Also, why doesn't the AIR have a separate metre band for Hindi commentary for the uninterrupted benefit of English listeners?

ROBIN CHATTO-PADHYAYA,

Uttarpara

Best-over Indian hockey team

IFEEL that the best ever Indian hockey team living should go something like this: Shankar Laxman (goalkeeper), Surjit Singh (left back), Prithipal Singh (right back), Claudius sr (right half back), Ajitpal Singh (centre half back), Perumal (left half back), Bhola (left extreme), Udham Singh (left in), Balbir Singh (centre forward and captain), Peter or Ashok Kumar (right in), Raghbir Lal or Phillips (right extreme). Reserves: Keshav Dutt, B P Govinda and Mohammed Shahid.

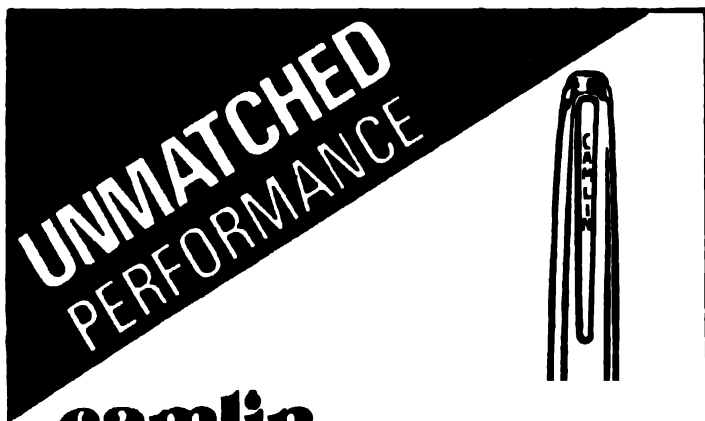
K V RAJAN,

Madras

Srinivasan to blame

SOME of I E Srinivasan's statements during the interview carried by your magazine smacked of arrogance and the inability to accept that he is just not good enough. There can be no denying the fact that Srinivasan did not make good the ample opportunities provided to him on the Australasian tour of 1980-81. Time and again, he threw his wicket away after being well set. In fact, he gave the picture of a man whose ultimate aim was to wear an India blazer and for one not caring for his team's interests. Maybe he did better than a few of the players but it must not be forgotten that he was fighting for a place in the middle order.

DEEPAK GOIL, Bangalore



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ASIAD VENUES

ASIAN GAMES 1982

Double treat at the Ambedkar Stadium

THE Dr Ambedkar Stadium, previously known as the Corporation Stadium, will be the venue for football and wrestling events during the Ninth Asiad. This is the only football stadium of the walled city and has been the centre of many a battle royal in the Durand and DCM football tournaments.

The work of the renovation of this stadium was entrusted to the Delhi Municipal Corporation. At first, the Jeroze Shah Kotla cricket ground was selected as venue for wrestling, but finally the choice fell on the Ambedkar Stadium barely a stone's throw away.

The renovation and remodelling work was necessitated to accommodate various requirements and to meet international standards of playgrounds.

Additional public conveniences, wire mesh fencing around the playing arena, face lifting of "kachha" tracks, re-turfing of the ground and fire fighting arrangements conforming to international

standards have been provided.

This stadium will also now have adequate facilities for players, officials, media agencies and civic amenities for spectators. These are as follows:

1. A new double storeyed block on the northern side of the existing stadium.
2. Single storeyed block, in place of the existing "kachha" structure in front of the main stadium.
3. Renovation of change rooms of the existing stadium and improvement of general surroundings.
4. A specially designed podium has been fabricated for wrestling bouts.

It was felt necessary to shift the existing tiers on the eastern side and to reconstruct these, raising the capacity from 4500 to 6200 at an estimated cost of Rs 22.11 lakhs.

A double storeyed and a single-storeyed block providing amenities have been constructed in accordance with the recommendations of the Delhi Urban Art Commission. It will cater to the requirements of Press, VIPs, Re-

ferees and other officials at an estimated cost of Rs 9.6 lakhs.

The work of fabrication of the portable podium required for wrestling competitions was undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 6.01 lakhs. In order to ensure that the sportsmen get a secure environment wire mesh fencing has been erected all around the playfield at a cost of Rs 2.29 lakhs. Necessary face lifting has been given to the "kachha" tiers at an estimated cost of Rs 50,000.

For making space available for corner kicks, the existing south east boundary wall was demolished and re-erected at a more suitable place at a cost of Rs 50,000.

There are two other venues for football matches. They are the Model Town Stadium and the main Nehru Stadium. The finals will be played in the main stadium.

The football matches will be held from November 20 to December 3 (29th November being the rest day). The matches at

the Nehru Stadium will be held in floodlight.

A new public address system has been provided keeping international standards in view. This would cost Rs 1.89 lakhs.

The scoreboard installed at the stadium has been given a new look to ensure proper and instant information to spectators watching the game. In addition to it, arrangements have been made for security at an estimated cost of Rs 1.79 lakhs. To clearly demarcate the different types of tiers, wire mesh fencing has been provided.

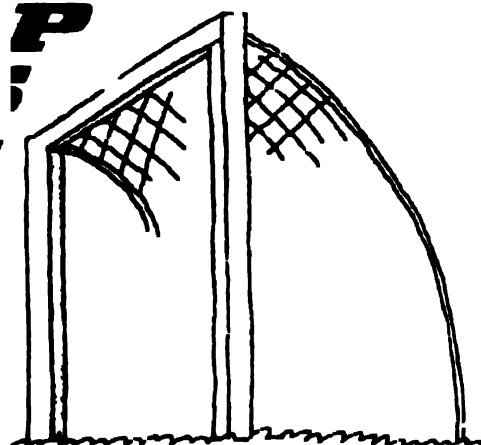
Various additional requirements for conducting wrestling events have been finalised. These works were undertaken at a cost of Rs 7.48 lakhs.

These include construction of a Federation Office for wrestling events, raising and improvement of existing "kachha" tier on the western side of the Ambedkar Stadium, construction of pedestrian walkways outside the stadium, and replacement of chairs.



lead the way

P



Sport will become a system and a movement

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT interviews Buta Singh

MR Buta Singh was in Athens, attending a meeting of the International Amateur Athletic Federation during the European Athletic Championships when the Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, in a Cabinet reshuffle appointed him the country's first Minister for Sport.

After all the experience he has gained as president of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India and chairman of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee (AGSOC) the choice was obvious, though the creation of a separate Ministry for Sport did come as something of a surprise gift to all those who had been clamouring for it.

Mr Buta Singh's task is not going to be an easy one. Pre-occupied as he has been with the stupendous task of

organising the Asian Games, he has not had much time to apply himself to other matters with which he will be concerned as minister for Sport. But the enthusiasm and zeal he expressed during an interview with this writer bodes well for the future.

SPORTSWORLD: For the first time the country has a Minister for Sport. Have you been given any specific guidelines or policies to help you in the discharge of your duties?

BUTA SINGH: As a sports organiser heading a premier sports federation (Amateur Athletic Federation of India) for several years and having functioned under the patronage of the Indian Olympic Association led by Raja Bhalindra Singh whose entire family has done so much for

Indian sport, it is my duty to thank Mrs Indira Gandhi on my behalf. Also on behalf of other sports leaders for having decided to create a ministry for a sport.

All those people who have been demanding such a ministry in the interest of Indian sport should be grateful to her. Documents like the Deshmukh Report and the policy now being finalised by the All India Council of Sports will be of help in my work as Sports Minister.

SW: How does a separate ministry help sport?

BS: Previously the department in the Education Ministry dealing with sport was connected with it only in a limited manner—like preparation of teams for major competitions. Sport will become a system and a move-

Buta Singh with Indian athletes prior to their departure to Tokyo



ment with the establishment of a separate ministry Sport will get a big boost, especially with the facilities and infrastructure that have been created for the Asian Games.

SW: In which areas specifically do you propose to function in your mission to make sport a movement?

BS: We have hitherto been thinking of schools and colleges alone as the nurseries of sportsmen/women. Nothing wrong with that. But I propose to encourage talent more seriously elsewhere also. There is a vast number of young people who are still not privileged enough to be able to take part in organised sport in schools and colleges—people in the rural areas and the tribals. These people also have talent.

I propose to harness this talent wherever it exists—from the mountains of the north to the rivers of the south. This I consider a major task. Let me give you examples. The Nagas and the Bhils don't have to be told what archery is all about. For that matter the *Buzigars* of Punjab don't have to be told about intricate gymnastic exercises. There is plenty of latent talent in these young people waiting to be discovered and developed.

SW: Have you set yourself any goals—short and long-term?

BS: Yes, there are certain priorities. For competitive sport I propose to pick up some disciplines at which we are good and concentrate on them. For example hockey, wrestling, cycling, shooting and equestrianism.

While concentrating on these sports the others will also be encouraged with an eye on the future. Indigenous sports like kabaddi will also receive equal attention. In fact, it will be a mass-based sports policy in which the less expensive games like kabaddi, football, cross-country running and jumping will be specially encouraged. District level competitions in these sports will be regular features.

SW: Thus far, sport has been a part of the Education Ministry. Now that it will constitute a separate ministry, will it be allotted a separate budget? And with all the plans you have in mind it will be a more sizeable one.

BS: Yes. A budget will have to be provided. More funds will have to be allocated to sport.

SW: As you know, the Olympic movement frowns on governmental or any other form of control. As Minister for Sport now, do you see any conflicts?

BS: In more than half the world, sport is government controlled.

SW: How smooth do you think your relations with the sports federations will be?

BS: I look forward to the best of relations. I have a complete rapport with them. For about two years now, the federations have functioned from the AGSOC premises. We have been like a family.



The Boston Marathon in progress. Will we soon have a comparable event?

SW: When Mr V C Shukla became the chairman of the All-India Council of Sports, he had to resign the presidency of the Badminton Association of India. Will you have to follow his example and resign the presidency of the Athletics Federation?

BS: The AICS has certain rules laid down. The Ministry rules make no mention of my having to resign any other post. However, let me tell you that I don't propose to continue as the AAI president. It is not possible to do justice. I will step down after the Asian Games.

SW: Sport, being part of education, is a State subject. Any comments?

BS: I would like to see every State in the country setting up a Ministry of Sport so that sport becomes a powerful movement and takes its rightful place in the life of the nation.

SW: And now, about your Asian Games task. Were you satisfied with the Trial Games exercise?

BS: It was a useful experience and I am satisfied.

SW: What have you to say in answer to the Press criticism?

BS: The Press criticism was very valuable, especially about the technical aspects. But there was a basic difference between our approach and that of the Press. Our approach was to test the facilities.

For us it was a trial of the arenas

we have built, all the while racing against time. The Press expected the Trial Games to be on the scale of the Asian Games. Usually, such Trial Games or mini games are held at least one year before the actual event. But this was not the case with us. We were short of time.

SW: What about the shortcomings and the work which still remains to be completed?

BS: As I said earlier I am quite satisfied. There were no major shortcomings or defects, only minor ones, like shortage of water in the village and other such things. All these difficulties will be removed well in time. I have no doubt about that.

SW: But our poor prospects of winning gold medals must be worrying you? Are you satisfied with our athletes' performances in the Trial Games?

BS: In some disciplines like swimming, hockey, volleyball and tennis we have shown an improvement. As for athletics and cycling, the unusual heat prevented the athletes from giving of their best.

SW: Was our coaching/training over all these months adequate? Would you say you were satisfied with it?

BS: By and large yes. Though it may not be to one's entire satisfaction. The GDR coaches in volleyball and swimming have done a good job and also the cycling coach from Denmark.



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"We did our best to distribute Asiad tickets"

RAJIV GANDHI, who has taken it upon himself to ensure that everything concerning the Asiad runs smoothly, tells ASIT BANERJEE

SW How do you react to the critical stand taken by the Press on the Trial Games?

RG They should not demoralise our sincere workers. The whole system and in particular the food was criticised by them. I went to the Village. The food was not bad and was also nutritive.

It is reported that when Rajiv Gandhi visited the Games Village, the food served by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) was of a superior quality and also nutritive. However, the food for the occupants was not as nutritive as it should have been for the athletes participating in rigorous competition. The use of the occupants was

also directed against the inadequate quantity of food served both during breakfast and lunch. The boxers and some officials reported that they ate lunch outside on their own to avoid indigestion. The water supply was also most irregular, due to a dispute between the DDA and Delhi Water Supply Dept. But all these problems were temporarily solved when dignitaries visited the Village.

SW After your visits to the stadia, are you satisfied with the overall progress being made?

RG You see, it is all the result of team work. We started less than a year ago. The superstructure was started in October 1981. How can we

expect everything ready—the 17 stadia, the equipment, the facilities? It is a huge thing. We are working confidently.

This 10 day long sports festival is a trial—a trial in the true sense of the word. Not only for the participants and the officials but for all of us, the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, and for every worker associated with this herculean task. We invite healthy criticism to help us detect the flaws which we will rectify.

SW The Hall of States, the venue for table tennis and boxing, requires vertically directed light on the tables and the arena. Here, 216 1000 watt halogen lamps have been fixed with an added facility of 40 x 1000 watt lamps for colour TV coverage. But at the Netaji Indoor Stadium, we have an adjustable lighting arrangement which does not produce any glare effect that disturbs the players.

RG The complete lighting system has been computerised to achieve the desired illumination level. But you have pointed out a technical flaw. We must look into the matter.

SW What are the future plans for this venue?

RG Eventually it will be used for organising trade fairs and exhibitions.

The Trade Fair Authority of India aims at creating 60,000 square metres of permanent covered space in the near future to obtain membership of the International Union of Trade Fairs, Paris and thus avail special facilities and advantages. This hall is ideally suited for holding international conferences. The hall has a seating capacity of 4,000.

SW Germany has been organising regular events to utilise the stadia they built for the Munich Olympics. In the last calendar year, Moscow has organised one international convention or conference a day. Is India going to follow their example?

RG National and international meets will be held regularly. Mr Bura Singh will work out programmes to keep these stadia utilised.

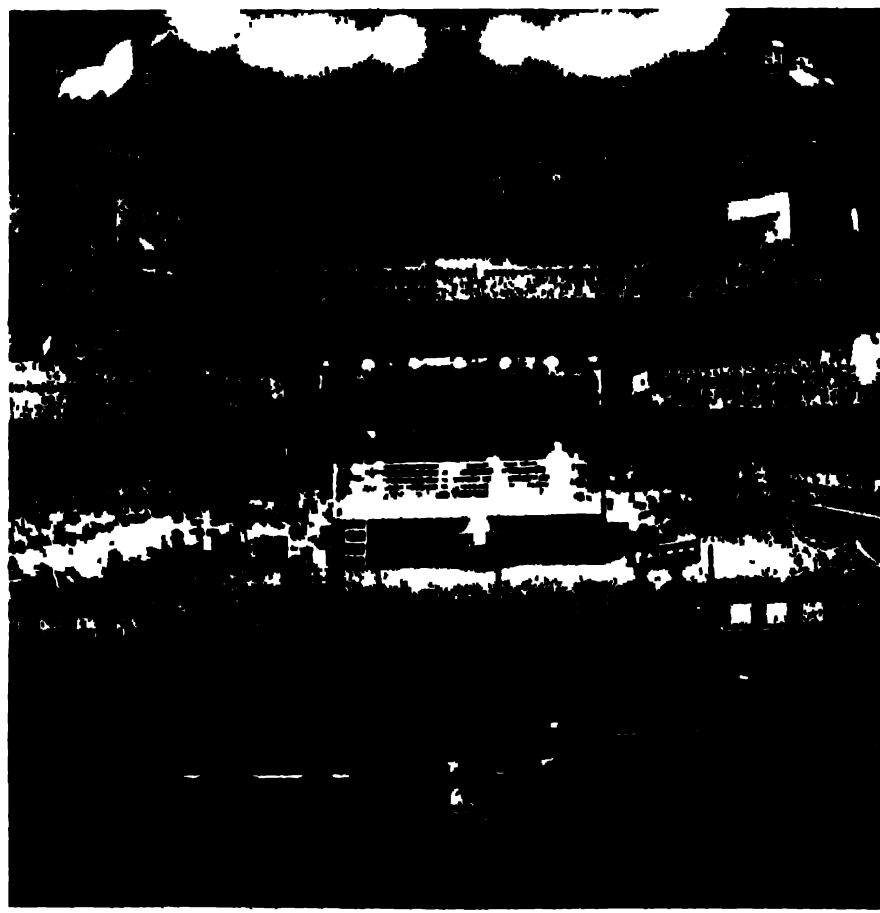
SW Are we planning beyond the Asiad?

RG Why not try a world championships? We have the stadia, the arrangements, the latest equipment and the knowledge. We can have anything we need. After the success of this venture we can easily plan a world championship.

SW Allegations are being made that tickets for the Asiad have been cornered by interested parties. Is it true that there have been foul-ups in the distribution of tickets?

RG That is not true. We did our best to distribute the tickets all over this country and outside as well. So far, only 700 tickets remain to be returned to the committee. The response has been tremendous. I know that some people have bought tickets from Bangkok and Singapore.

The controversial Hall of States



The light of other days

ASHIS RAY reports on the Old Rest of the World against the Old England match, marred by rain, that took place in London

THE first wicket fell and as was customary for him in his heyday, Rohan Babulal Kanhat walked in to till the breach. His hair thinner and all grey, his frame a lot stockier than yesteryears, but there was no mistaking the gait, nor the sweetness of the bat muddling the ball once he got underway at the crease.

He was more watchful than in his prime, playing himself in as he would have rarely done in the past. But once set, he unfurled a repertoire of strokes that had the connoisseurs crackling with delight at The Oval. He made room to cut as if reenacting that double hundred at the Eden Gardens in the late Fifties. He stepped back to drive through the covers as it back at Adelaide in the 'Tie' series, when he pummelled the Aussies to the tune of two separate centuries in the match. And he hoisted the bowlers over mid wicket and mid on in the most contemptuous manner conceivable. It was vintage stuff, and he tried to a chanceless b2 not out to erase all competition for the Man of the Match award, playing for the Old Rest of the World against Old England in a riot, sadly interrupted by rain.

And what better entertainment could there be for in a half century stand for the fourth wicket, his partner was none other than the great man himself—Sir Gattfield Sobers. The tour in one all rounder was accorded a rapturous welcome as he changed the batting order at Tiger Paraud's behest and preceded the latter to the wicket. Indeed the attrition notwithstanding, he crashed the much younger John Snow past extra cover to open his account. The portly and no longer 'Terry' Freddie Trueman was lofted over the cover for six in an over that cost the Yorkshireman 23 runs as the unrepentable Kanhat took four boundaries off it. But the provoked paceman got his revenge when with one that aimed away, he knocked back Sobers off stump for 32 which brought about the closure for the visitors at 215 to four in the forty over Sunday League type encounter.

Earlier Bobby Simpson in his baby green cap still looking capable of initiating proceedings for his country and the now port bellied Karook Engineer opened the innings for the

tourists. The Australian departed after a brisk 37 leaving the stage vacant for the rugged Indian as he stepped out to smack the ball through the covers or past midwicket. It was as if time had stood still. The more enterprising had remained that way and the crowd loved them for it.

An obdurate engineer was not what they had come to see, and the flamboyant man did not disappoint them before he was stumped for 45.

After the Bombavite and before



Sobers hit Trueman for a six over cover

Sobers entered there was a brief spell of mastery from one of the outstanding post War batsman—Neil Harvey. Now, sporting tinted spectacles and by no means lighting fit, he, nevertheless, proved that timing and the twinkle of toes are factors that never wane. In a non violent vein he caressed the ball through the covers reminding the Englishmen in no uncertain fashion of the pain he had once inflicted on them.

The kids had threatened to shatter the serenity all afternoon, and,

like the spoilsport it is in England, intervened midway through the England innings. Already the contest had continued in very poor light, and was ultimately left inconclusive. Not that it mattered and not indeed before a few more delightful moments.

Ray Lindwall, now well past 60, opened the bowling for the Rest of the World with Charlie Griffith sharing the new ball with him. The milky hair and the broad midriff notwithstanding, the outline of the once terrifying Australian's classical action did not go unnoticed, while the West Indian's looked a lot smoother and less suspicious than what purists discredited him for in the early Sixties.

Also on view were Wesley Hall and Lance Gibbs—the former with a characteristically long run up and the other, now settled in Miami in the United States, still demonstrating glimpses of the mesmeric spin that fetched him more than three hundred Test wickets.

In contrast, the Englishmen confronting these bowlers were not as distinguished in terms of their Test match record. Mike Denness, Peter Parfitt and Philip Sharpe were not exactly redoubtable England exponents and stories from the dressing room suggested that there was a bit of politics (since there was a money factor) involved in the team selection. Where, one wondered, were the Comptons, Mays and Cowdneys? Or for that matter, the Statham and the Titmuses? The explanation was that Tony Lewis had taken most of them away for a tour of America. But surely, this did not account for all.

Anvhow, Tom Graveney and Basil D'Oliveira, apart from Trueman and Snow were present in the line up, though neither of them got a chance to wield the willow. Rain cut short the exhibition when England had reached 112 for two. John Ldrich and Sharpe had gone fairly cheaply. But Denness and Parfitt, with 27 and 44 respectively, prevented any further damage.

It had been pelting down for some time. But Sobers refused to go off, wanting to give the spectators their money's worth. Ultimately, there came a stage when it was no longer sensible to stay on—the crowd having been driven away by the rain and apparently 'The Nawab,' who had shown that his throws from the boundary line were as flat and accurate as in his youth, persuaded the enthusiastic elements to make a beeline for the pavilion.

Happily, a match of this nature could be the precursor of many such displays in future with Courage Breweries, the sponsors, planning to hold another union next year, and for the same cause—the construction of indoor cricket facilities at The Oval. Also, Courage have ideas of taking an England team to the West Indies and India in the near future.

The old order changeth

PARTAB RAMCHAND files his despatch on the Board's Annual General Meeting in Bangalore

A JOURNALIST colleague walked out from the Press Box in the midst of the one-day international at Bangalore on 26 September and went towards the telephone "Where are you going? There is a match going on," said his friend, a former test cricketer "This is a minor match," replied the journalist "I am going to find out the score in the bigger game being played at the hotel" And everyone around knew what he meant

When this long weekend was over, it had to be admitted that while there were no fireworks, it certainly wasn't a quiet or smooth weekend The meeting had its quota of surprises, high drama, low humour, dramatics, suspense—and the works It certainly will go down as one of the most remarkable Annual General Meetings in the Board's 53-year-old history

One can't actually pinpoint any single date or event to track the beginning of this revolution For discontent had been growing among certain member associations over the past few years Slowly they began to emerge as the North-East faction which formed the rival party against the Establishment group represented by the combination of the West and the South Central Zone, in keeping with its geographical position was more or less a fence sitter

Here only remained an important issue to rake up and the Rs 35 lakhs case—which is now too well known to need recounting here—came in handy for the rival group, headed by Mr Jagmohan Dalmia of Bengal and Mr J S Bindra of Punjab In the meantime they had succeeded in getting Mr Salve, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, to contest for the post of the President He became their trump card

The first signs that this was not going to be just another meeting were seen at Madras in the week before the Bangalore gathering Hardly any Board official seemed to be bothered about attending the Madras Test They were only interested in planning their strategy for Bangalore The battle lines had been clearly drawn as the important date neared Cross voting in one or two cases was expected but finally it seemed that the crucial votes would be those from the Central Zone It

also depended on how well the two sides played their cards

At the outset the Establishment suffered a setback with Mr Wankhede not being able to make it to the meeting because of his wife's ill health and his own leg injury But as soon as the meeting started it was the turn of the rival group to suffer The first one came when there was news that the Vidhartha Cricket Association had been restrained from sending its representatives from attending by a court order Mr Salve was on the VCA ticket and the rival group was panicky and hurried phone calls were made to Nagpur to the judge's house to get a clearance The restraint order was kept in abeyance till 30 September

The North-East combine, thus seemed to have overcome one hurdle But they they were inflicted a not altogether unexpected defeat The meeting had to be chaired and in the absence of Mr Wankhede, logically it ought to have been S Srinaman, the senior Vice President of the Board But the rival group put up Mr Murugeswari Jaikrishna of Gujarat insisting on a secret ballot The contest was obviously the first trial of strength between the two groups Srinaman carried the day by 15 votes to 12

This put the North-East alliance hitherto confident on the defensive They had not expected this reverse But then the Establishment won the next round, too This was when the issue of the accounts came up This included the Rs 35 lakhs scandal The accounts were passed unanimously and, in the words of Srinaman, "In three minutes" No one raised the issue of Rs 35 lakhs and one official called it "Lack of guts" on the part of the rival group "They make such a big hue and cry about the issue and then don't even bother to raise it at the meeting How spineless can they get", he asked

The elections were also supposed to be held on the opening day, 25 September But somehow, the two parties seemed unwilling to tackle this major issue There were bickerings, arguments and counter arguments Mr Salve in the meantime let it be known that if he was to be the Board chief, he would have to be elected unanimously There was no question of elections The North-East combine then struck up the idea of

having a compromise formula by which Mr Salve would be elected unopposed as the President This was not acceptable and everything for a time seemed chaotic By the time it was already past 5 pm and Srinaman decided that the elections ought to be put off by a day

Thus, only routine matters were discussed Besides the accounts, the budget for 1982-83 was also passed and the annual report adopted The Board's profit from the England tour of India last winter came to Rs 24 lakhs The other general income over expenditure amounted at Rs 51,000

Even though the Establishment had rejected the rival group's idea of consensus vote for Mr Salve, it was obvious as soon as the meeting had resumed that they were fighting a losing battle on this issue The arguments started early and so sharp were they that an adjournment was forced after an hour This was for about half an hour and it gave time for the proceedings to be carried out in a calmer atmosphere Still, according to one official, the Establishment would have carried the day by a 14-12 margin if it had come to voting "But we were badly let down by two Central Zone representatives," he moaned "They decided to throw in their lot at the last moment with the group backing Mr Salve and then the minister's election became a certainty" It is learnt that even the minister made a fervent appeal for unanimity

There was little change in the other office bearers Mr A W Kamadikar stayed on as secretary as did joint secretary Ranbir Singh Mahendra Mr M A Chidambaram became the treasurer for the twentieth year running and the vice presidents in order of seniority were S Srinaman (South Zone), K K Mehra (North), H P Singhania (Central), M Jaikrishna (West) and B N Dutta (East) The last named in place of Mr Bodhanwalla was the only change

The selection committee, as expected, underwent a drastic change It now veers a new fresh and young look Chulam Ahmed (South Zone) is the new chairman and the only other member remaining from the old set is C T Sarwate (Central) Pankaj Roy came back into the committee from East Zone in place of Dattu Phadkar, Chandu Borde replaced Polly Umrigar from the West and Bishan Singh Bedi took Vijay Mehra's place from the North

One important decision taken was not to implement the new table of points for the Ranji Trophy championship in coming season This was a bit of surprise for even till the day before, its implementation seemed only a formality Obviously, there were a lot of reservations about the system itself It does have loopholes and in a way it was good that the implementation had been put off instead of rushing it into our most important domestic tournament

Today's players enjoy too many rights

The legendary RAMANATHAN KRISHNAN tells PARTAB RAMCHAND

RAMANATHAN KRISHNAN, 45, is the agent for a well known cooking gas company in Madras. He has just built a shiny new spacious house in CH colony, a prominent residential area in the city. Needless to say, it has a tennis court.

Krishnan speaks smoothly and evenly. The only time he got a bit worked up was when he talked about the rift with the Amritraj brothers. Obviously, this issue has hurt him a lot. Otherwise he spoke in a most candid and open manner on all other questions.

On changes in the game since his day

The changes in the game are reflected in the status of tennis today. In my days it was not a career. Now it is very much so. In those days you had to combine tennis and studies, tennis and business. Now, however, tennis is the business.

In my day you could not give 100 per cent to tennis. I know I did not. I could have done better if I had played more in Australia, which was the leading tennis nation then. But because of studies and then business commitments, I could not.

Frankly, I did not expect that there would be such a drastic change. Who would have thought for example that one day even the Davis Cup competition would go open. I played five months a year, but Ramesh now plays ten months a year. Just compare the father and son. That sums up the changes in the game. Also in my day, you could not have had the kind of boycott that Wimbledon had in 1973.

On pro tennis then and now

You may find it hard to believe, but in the early Fifties players like Gonzalez and Kramer were actually scared. First because the pros were so few in number. Then because they were playing for money in what was essentially an amateur game. Society looked down on them. They were literally frowned upon. They had a complex. But now the situation has changed. It is or more an amateur game, only professional Prize money has been accepted. It is a reflection on society itself.

On whether commercialism is good



for the game

The people have voted for it. Like in everything else, there are both good and bad points. It is good for the players, but only for the top players. Only they can make real big money.

Now each player is an investment, an institution, a company in himself. It is a misnomer to say that there is a lot of money in tennis. There is a lot of money, but only for those who reach the top. It is a risk taking to tennis as a career. I took the risk in Ramesh's case.

On why India has lagged behind in commercialism.

Lack of finance is the primary reason. Rs 10,000 is a lot of money for Indians but it is peanuts to foreign players. That kind of money does not attract top players and that is why our Grand Prix tournament was such a big flop. I don't think our administrators have yet accepted the fact of professionalism and open tennis.

On the pro offer made to him and why he turned it down.

Yes, I was offered £150,000 sterling for a four year contract by Kramer. He kept offering it to me for four years but I did not accept.

I was one of the few players to turn it down when I realised that if I accepted I could not play Wimbledon and Davis Cup. Today, if the same offer was made, I would have accepted it because I would have been allowed to play in all these tournaments. I feel that by turning down the offer I showed a lot of guts.

On the charge that Vijay is the greater of the two because he has played open tennis while Krishnan did not.

Who were the pros in my day? They were the best amateurs I played. Hoad just before he turned pro. I played Rosewall just before he became a pro. Likewise too with other stars like Trabert, Fraser and Laver. So one cannot say that I did not play against the world's best players of my time.

On the rift with the Amritraj brothers.

This is one more instance of politics in sports. It was the officials who set the whole thing up as Krishnan vs Amritraj.

It was done for selfish motives, for petty reasons. Today I laugh at the whole thing. But they (the officials) killed Indian tennis. They set it back five years at a time when it was proceeding smoothly. The whole thing stinks.

They should have felt proud and happy that the country had two players of our calibre. Instead, they set us up against one another.

What really counts is the number of young players in a certain country, not who is the captain.

We might have had differences over strategy and tactics, but that does not mean anything. I may have differences with my wife, but that does not mean we don't get along. Likewise, even the Amritraj brothers and I could have got along, had only the officials allowed it. I have nothing otherwise against the Amritraj brothers.

On his role as a non-playing captain:

I feel I did a sincere job. I did what I thought was good for India. I am a man of conviction. Praise or criticism does not bother me. I have never had any personal likes or dislikes to-

wards any one

On why the Indian challenge in the Davis Cup is no longer a force to reckon with.

I think this is because the whole thing has been badly handled. In fact we should have taken advantage of the fact that the top players did not represent their countries in the Davis Cup for many years in the Seventies. I feel the reason for the decline stems from the disputes in the All-India Tennis Association and between the players and the parent body. These have not yet been settled.

On the charge that his game was too soft

I don't think my game was soft. I did not serve hard enough. I admit that. That was a drawback but only on grass. I hit the ball well, my strokes were good and I had a sort of disguised power. My game was based on timing and reflexes.

On the charge that he never won any titles abroad

I might not have won the Wimbledon or French or US titles. But I did win the US hard court championships, the Canadian Open and the Queen's Club tournament. Moreover, even at the French Championship I reached the quarter final more than once and reached the semi-finals twice at Wimbledon.

On whether he would have fared better today

Yes, I feel I would have. I was physically quite strong and would have thrived on the greater number of tournaments and generally more tennis being played today. Also most of the courts are of the synthetic surface and would have greatly helped my strokeplay.

My favourite court has always been cement, which offers a true bounce and is, in my opinion, the best surface. There is a lot of tennis nowadays being played on cement and even the current US Open is being played on this surface. I think it is going to be the main surface for tennis in the next two or three years.

On players of his day and current players:

I feel players of my day had to have a greater all round variety in their game. Take the following as an example. McEnroe shuns the clay court at Roland Garros and prefers cement or grass. Lendl detests grass so much that he does not even take part at Wimbledon and sticks to clay or other synthetic surfaces. This was not the case in my day. Laver won both the French and Wimbledon titles within a month, so also Emerson. They were at home on all surfaces.

On the great players of his time:
Obviously Laver must take pride of place. If there was one thing remarkable about him it was his temperament and his mental outlook. Plus of course he had everything a great player should have. Following him would be Hoad, Rose-

wall, Fraser and Emerson in that order.

I also played alongside greats like Drobny and even had victories over them but that was when they were well past their prime.

On increasing indiscipline of the players

I think the players today enjoy too many rights. They have become rather spoilt. No wonder you get all those obscene and unseemly gestures nowadays. I feel that the rules regarding indiscipline are vague. The code of conduct should be stiffer.

On today's top players:

McEnroe is very talented. I don't think he has reached his peak yet. Borg is still great and I have no doubt he will be back at the top. Connors is a great tryer. Vilas is good on clay. Lendl is good on any surface except grass.

But the main thing I notice about today's players is the way they reserve their best for the top tournaments. You may beat these top players in some minor events and think you have got the better of them. Don't let it fool you. In those tournaments they only play at 60 per

John McEnroe and Chris Evert Lloyd in unfamiliar pose on the dance floor. Krishnan claims that today's top players have been pampered and that codes of conduct are not stiff enough.



cent or 80 per cent. They reserve 100 per cent for the top tournaments and big prize money events.

One can't play one's best tennis all the time and these players know when to play at their best. There are a lot of good players in the world today but the real champs are few. The gap after the top four—Borg, McEnroe, Connors and Lendl—is immense. But it was the same in my day too with the gap after the big three—Laver, Emerson and Fraser—being equally immense though at my peak I came after them and had victories over all of them at one time or the other. But they won the big events.

Comparing his game with that of Ramesh

One really can't make such a comparison. He has to work harder and do better because the competition is so stiff. But I will say that when I was the same age (21) I had a better record.

On what is needed to strengthen Indian tennis

More players in the teenage group. This will breed greater quality for out of quantity comes quality. The All India Tennis Association should think along those lines.

On the systematic manner in which his game progressed

I was the top Indian junior in the early Fifties and the government sent me abroad when I was 15 or 16. I had an opportunity to play the best players in the world. I played against

But now, everything depends on the ATP computer. Tournaments are categorised so that junior players like Vasudevan or Nandan Bal—who are good for their age—never get a chance to play top players. Vasudevan can never play Borg and Bal cannot meet McEnroe unless they break the barrier and that is a tough task.

On the tennis boom in the United States

The coming of Harry Hopman to the US and greater prize money are two of the main reasons for this boom. Tennis is big business and is thriving on sponsorship. But the boom is now spreading to Europe and tennis is now a big business even in Eastern Europe, particularly Czechoslovakia.

On Australia's diminishing power in world tennis

First and foremost this was because of the defection of Harry Hopman to the US in the late Sixties. He had done the most to put Australia on top in the Fifties and Sixties, and his departure meant that the father figure had gone. Then the Australian players started settling down in the US since the prize money was more in that country. The cupboard became bare. But now a new crop of players is coming up and Australia can come back as a force to reckon with.

On some of his memorable moments

Pride of place must go to my

victory over Thomas Koch of Brazil at Calcutta in 1966 since it put India into the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup for the first time. Speaking of individual triumphs, the fore most would be my win over Emerson in the Wimbledon quarter-final in 1961. I played very well and I remember that all my shots came in.

Then there was the victory over Luis Ayala of Chile in 1960 which put me in the Wimbledon semi-final for the first time. Another memorable moment was the victory over Laver at Boston in the Davis Cup inter-zone final in 1959. Then I also had a good match with Chuck McKinley in the Davis Cup inter-zone final against India at New Delhi in 1961. McKinley was runner up to Laver at Wimbledon that year and I beat him in five sets.

On how he keeps in touch with the game he loves

I always practise every day. Now I have started playing in veterans' tournaments abroad. These have been going on for a few years now but they are all for those over 45. Having turned 45 this year, I am eligible.

On whether he had any disappointments in his career

No. I don't have any disappointments or regrets and I don't want to give any excuses. If I did not win Wimbledon or any major title, it is because I lacked something. One should take one's shortcomings as a sportsman.

Krishnan vs Neale Fraser. An off-court argument during the last India-Australia Davis Cup tie when Fraser disputed a decision.



He is not forgotten

IF Satyajit Ray put Indian cinema on the world map, the same can be said about Ramanathan Krishnan and Indian tennis. No other single individual has done more for any Indian sport and I doubt whether any other tennis player has done more for his country than what Krishnan did for India. In the 30 years since he made his entry into international tennis, he has served the country in various capacities—player, non-playing captain, sole selector. Behind the scenes, he has been the brain behind most of the major decisions taken by the All India Lawn Tennis Association.

True, it was Ghouse Mohammad who first made the world sit up and take notice of Indian tennis when he entered the quarter-final of Wimbledon in 1949. But he flickered all too briefly on the international scene. It was only the advent of Krishnan that gave Asian tennis a tremendous boost on the world circuit.

Krishnan's enviable record is impressive. Winner of the Junior Wimbledon Title in 1954. Twice semi-finalist at Wimbledon in 1960 and 1961. Ranked amongst the top ten players for five years, four years in a row. Seeded three times at Wimbledon, once as high as number four. One of the most formidable Davis Cup records of all time. Recipient of the Padmashree Award and the Helms Award for Best Sportsman in Asia. One of the best loved sportsmen of our times.

All these laurels rest easily on him. Now 45 and well placed in life, Krishnan cannot put an end to his love affair with tennis, which started when his father gave him his first racket about 40 years ago. He still plays the game both in India and abroad. He has kept abreast with the changes and latest trends in the game.

Talking with him is an experience one will not forget easily for his knowledge of the game is so profound. He can discuss any aspect of it with equal felicity. He is refreshingly different as far as the past generations go. Generally older people always talk of how "great" players of their days were and how "puny" the moderns are. Krishnan always speaks highly of Laver, Emerson and Fraser and also has a kind word about Borg, Connors or McEnroe.

In the Fifties when Krishnan started making his mark, his game attracted considerable world attention. It was his own inimitable brand of play. It was a style that brought back strong and vivid memories of a bygone era—the golden period of the 20's when the great touch artists Cochet, Lacoste and Borotra domin-

ated the scene. Krishnan in fact was frequently compared to Cochet. His game was based on consistently accurate ground strokes.

From the baseline would flow an unending stream of forehand and backhand shots which Krishnan used to execute effortlessly. The opponent was usually left bewildered and breathless for Krishnan hit the ball with such deception that the man on the other side of the net had no clue as to which side of the court the ball would land. It was with one such performance that he got the better of Roy Emerson—always a tough opponent—in the quarter-final at Wimbledon in 1961. Emerson was seeded fourth and Krishnan seventh. Duncan Macaulay, the eminent critic, had this to say, "most surprisingly Krishnan beat Emerson with complete ease."

"It was one of the best matches that Krishnan ever played at Wimbledon. He turned Emerson's speed to his own advantage and directed his



Krishnan and Jaideep Mukherjee in their heyday

shots to all parts of the court where Emerson wasn't." How quaintly put! and how this single sentence sums up Krishnan's mesmeric, magical game. The Wimbledon authorities themselves admitted that total attendance went up during the few years that Krishnan played at Wimbledon at his peak.

Krishnan's long Davis Cup record has been surpassed only by Italy's Petrangeli. Certainly it can be said that numerous though his individual triumphs might have been, they take only second place to his Davis Cup record. He was single-handedly responsible for India's impressive showing in these matches in the 50's and 60's. The pressure on him, because of the lack of a good second singles player or an effective doubles combination was too much.

Quite often he had to win both his singles ties and also figure prominently in the doubles as well. More than half a dozen times he brought India to the Inter-Zone finals and his proudest moment came when he spearheaded India into the Challenge Round in 1966, with a super hu-

man effort against Brazil's Thomas Koch in the decisive singles of the Inter-Zone Final at Calcutta.

Down by two sets to one and 2-5 in the fourth, Krishnan turned the tables on his rival for a truly fantastic victory. Another great showing was in Australia when it was said that the Indians would not win a single set let alone a match. Krishnan, along with Mukherjee, brought off a great upset victory over Newcombe and Roche, the Wimbledon doubles champions. He could really be called "Mr Poker Face" for there was no expression on his face as he clinically and elegantly demolished his opponents. There were no tantrums. His court behaviour was impeccable. Not once would Krishnan question a linesman's or umpire's decision.

There was a period when Krishnan was ranked only below the three Australians Laver, Emerson and Fraser. In the 1962 Wimbledon Championships, he was seeded fourth behind them and had a favourable draw. He was likely to meet Laver in the final. He however injured his ankle in a doubles match and was forced to default to John Fraser in the third round. An appreciable increase in weight and added business responsibilities saw to it that he never again made it so high in subsequent Wimbledons. But throughout the Sixties, he did make his annual pilgrimage to the "Mecca".

Superb ground strokes. A cool temperament. A never say die attitude. Impeccable court manners. These were the characteristics of Krishnan's game. In his day, he was worshipped almost as a God and had a fanatical following. But then sportsmen who are active are among the most sought after personages. However, the day they retire they are, almost overnight, forgotten.

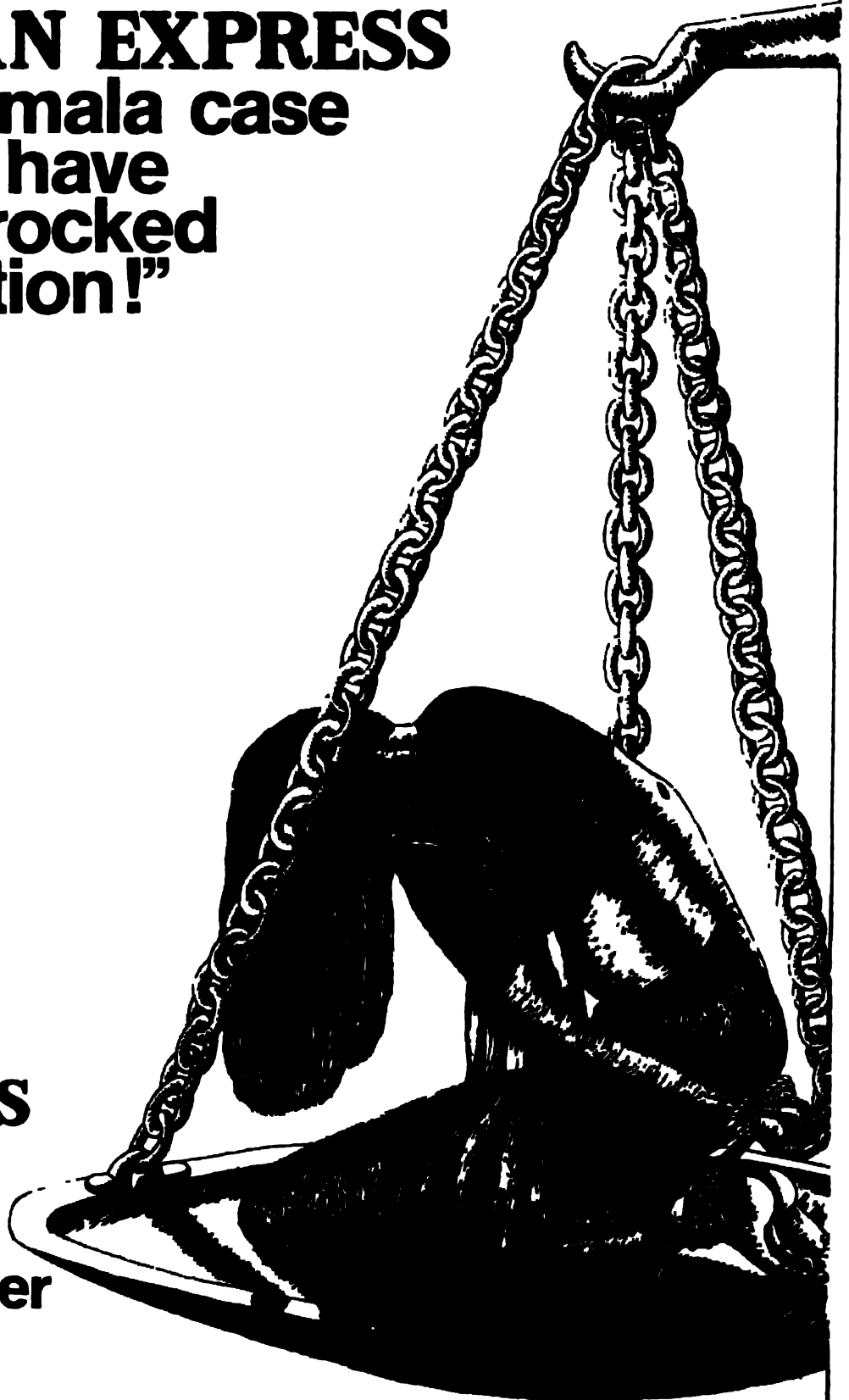
If there is one exception to this rule, it is Krishnan. Even today he is not a forgotten man far from it. He still signs autographs. He is still featured prominently by magazines which are eager to bring back memories of his game to a new generation who unfortunately did not see him play and even today many journals frequently interview him for his sound views on the game. He still has a lot of charisma.

Youngsters look up to him as a father figure and listen keenly to his advice and instructions. I doubt whether any sports personality enjoys the same respect and affection that Krishnan enjoys today. 20 years after he reached his peak and 13 years after he stopped playing regularly for the country. He might have stopped playing or officiating as the non-playing captain or sole selector, but at least he has made sure that there will still be a Krishnan gracing tennis courts the world over.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

**“But for the
INDIAN EXPRESS
the Kamala case
would have
never rocked
the nation!”**

**INDIAN
EXPRESS**
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just
another
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Two of a kind

PARTAB RAMCHAND

THE great debate continues. It has been going on for almost a decade now and for all you know it will go on for another decade. I refer to the issue that has been a favourite for discussion among tennis fans in the country—who was the greater player, Ramanathan Krishnan or Vijay Amritraj?

I frankly, the debate will continue till a third player, who hopefully is better than both of them, bursts upon the scene. Only that can put an end to this debate for with the facts and feats of both Krishnan and Vijay being parallel in so many ways, it is difficult to come to any definite conclusion.

First and foremost both had a rousing start to their careers. Krishnan won the Junior Wimbledon crown in 1954 at the age of 17. Then in 1956 he scored a shock victory over Drobny in the first round at Wimbledon (Drobny interestingly enough had won the Wimbledon title the same year Krishnan won the junior version). Vijay's great year initially was 1973. Not yet 20, he won the Hong Kong Open and Volvo titles, gunning down formidable opponents in the process. He also entered the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and Forest Hills.

It was then that the great debate started and all pointed out to Vijay building upon this dream start and overhauling Krishnan in the eyes of tennis fans in this country, particularly when he was bracketed with Borg and Connors as the "ABC" of tennis. But this initial promise was never fulfilled.

Krishnan by comparison made steadier progress. He won the Queen's Club tournament in 1959 with a victory over Alex Olmedo, who was the number one seed for Wimbledon. Olmedo turned the tables on Krishnan in a fascinating third round duel at "Mecca". Later in his career Krishnan was to win the US Hard Court and the Canadian Open titles.

Krishnan made it twice to the semi-finals at Wimbledon, in 1960 and 1961. Vijay after 1973 entered the quarter-final once in 1981. Krishnan reached the quarter-finals at the French Championships more than once. Vijay has never done as well as Roland Garos, but has entered the quarter-finals of the US Open twice, something that eluded Krishnan. Vijay also has won more titles while Krishnan won only three abroad. But as Krishnan points out (see interview) there is more tennis being played these days. In addition to that Krishnan (because of business commitments) limited himself to only a select number of tournaments.

Astonishingly even their record in the Davis Cup is somewhat similar, though Krishnan who played for India from 1953 to 1969 and for a year in the mid-Seventies certainly has scored more victories. Krishnan was the chief player for India for over a decade and Vijay looks fair to follow suit. He has already been our main player for ten years now. Krishnan received about the same amount of support from Naresh Kumar, Lal and Mukherjee that Vijay has received from Anand, Shashi and Ramesh. Again each player had one notable,

similar achievement. Krishnan piloted India to the Challenge Round in 1966, and Vijay helped put India in the Davis Cup final in 1974.

To make things complete, even their game is roughly the same, based on timing, reflexes and elegance. It is more artistic than powerful and indeed both have been hailed in their respective periods as "Indian touch artistes". If Vijay certainly has had the better serve, Krishnan was surer on the volley. And both have earned a name for themselves for their pleasing manners.

FAME HAS ITS PRICE

Even if it's under the counter

IT has been reported in certain sections of the Press that Nandan Bal, S. Vasudevan and Emilio Piperno have expressed their desire to turn professional after the Asian Games at Delhi. The statement made by these three players is baffling, to say the least. In other words Bal, Vasudevan and Piperno have been "amateurs" all this time.

How can this be? Over the years they have been playing prize money tournaments and winning large sums, so the question of changing over from an "amateur" to a "professional" does not arise.

Most of the tennis tournaments with any standing in India give out cash prizes. The last Nationals at Pune openly carried a winner's purse of over Rs. 10,000. Even small tournaments in Calcutta played at the Ordnance, Saturday and Tollygunge clubs award three to four thousand rupees to the winner. All tournaments played in Bombay also give cash prizes not only for the men's event but also for the juniors. Moreover, these three players all play, and do very well, on the Indian Satellite tour where prize money is awarded.

Giving away cash prizes is very good for Indian tennis as it acts as an incentive. In fact, these three "top" players (leaving aside, of course, the Amritraj brothers, Ramesh Krishnan and Sashi Menon) also go abroad and take part in tournaments. All these tournaments provide prize money.

It has been learnt from reliable sources that Piperno pulled in over Rs. 30,000 last year. Bal and Vasudevan have been doing even better on the circuit and their earnings must be nearing the half lakh mark. How is it then that they are not officially professional? These players have to sign and collect their money after the tournaments and so this income goes directly into their pockets.

On foreign tours, however, the All-India Lawn Tennis Association might accept the money and then give some of it to the players. When Akhtar Ali used to take players on foreign trips, the money earned would go into the AILTA coffers with the players being given only an allowance. Is the AILTA still following this policy? One is quite certain that as far as tournaments played in India are concerned, the players collect the money directly, while tournaments played abroad may still come under the old AILTA policy.

Only this association can enlighten us with regard to the difference between an amateur and professional in India. But it must be said that for practical purposes Bal, Vasudevan and Piperno can be classified as professionals. If this is the case, then how is it that the AILTA under the secretarship of Mr. Dilip Doss has selected these players to represent India in the forthcoming Asian Games? Has this been done only to save the face of the AILTA which has gone to the extent of using "professionals" to bring India glory in the Asian? And this in spite of the fact that only amateurs are allowed to take part in the Asian Games.

Whether or not that matter doing well at the Asian is not—the AILTA should realise that it is all about glory in sport. Surely Bal and company would have been dropped and youngsters given a chance. These youngsters—the Bhambhani, Pinar, Koppa and Jayant Rukhye—are amateurs in the strictest sense of the word and playing in the Asian would do them a world of good.

The All-India Lawn Tennis Association may reply that the players they have chosen are all amateurs. Who then is a professional? How much must one win to become a professional? These are questions only the AILTA can answer. But even if it is no use pulling the wool over people's eyes and saying that Bal, Vasudevan and Piperno do not perform for monetary

reasons, there will be two ways about it.

REPLY: OFFICIAL

THREE'S A CROWD

JIMMY CONNORS may be several months clear of his nearest rivals on the ATP computer, but the reality of it is that there is little—in terms of talent—to set him apart from his two closest rivals, John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl. And let's not forget that they have a host of title-hungry fellow professionals snapping at their heels every inch of the way.

Prime among them, of course, is Guillermo Vilas who has had a remarkable run of successes this year. One cannot help wondering if his resurgence has anything to do with the fact that he has switched over to a Slazenger mid-size racket for the first time in his life. The Argentine took three titles on the trot, beating Jimmy Connors in successive finals of Grand Prix tournaments at Rotterdam and Milan and then putting paid to Lendl at Monte Carlo. In addition, he also picked up two more GP titles at Buenos Aires and Madrid, once again beating Lendl in the final of the latter.

But when it comes down to brass tacks and you're talking in terms of the top three in the world, you don't have to look further than Connors, Lendl and McEnroe.

When you come to think of it, the rebirth of Connors wasn't really that much of a surprise. He had sounded a warning at the £95,000 Benson and Hedges Championship at Wembley in 1981, when he beat McEnroe in the final in a five set struggle. The older Connors had not won a tournament in eight months when he arrived at Wembley, McEnroe, on the other hand, had not lost a single one of his 19 matches in the same arena. Although McEnroe was accused by a large section of the Press of having thrown the match away, the fact was that Connors had ended his winning streak.

And if you remember a player by the name of Connors defeated McEnroe in the Wimbledon final this year. Again in five sets. Fate has not been kind to McEnroe this year. His only victory of any importance has been the Pro Indoor title, which he took at Philadelphia. On the other side of the scale, he failed in the Master lost the WCT final to Lendl and finally lost his Wimbledon crown to combat not one old rival Connors.

Lendl has had an ankle injury that kept him out of the game for six weeks, and put a damper on his preparations for his title defence at the All England Club, but if there were any doubts about his ability to stay on court against a formidable opponent for any length of time, they were surely put to rest when he pulled out all the stops in his six-hour defeat of French Open champion Mats Wilander, in the deciding match of the Davis Cup encounter.



McEnroe proves his talent on the guitar

OBSCENE BUT NOT HEARD

Playing the baiting game

NASTASE was a master in the art of baiting his opponents. As a matter of fact, he was probably the first professional to perfect the art of cross-court slang-ing. And that was not all—remember the time he changed his shorts on court? Yes, on court. He is also credited with having popularised the one-finger salute.

Unfortunately for the game of tennis, however, there are plenty of pros on the circuit today who are emulating him, prime among them being the notorious Fritz Buehning. There is a standing joke about him: fellow professionals claim that a brand new dictionary of obscenities could be compiled if anyone cared to listen to him long enough.

And there is another school of thought. Certain critics claim that John McEnroe is not far behind. But he makes sure of something: when he uses four letter words, he ensures that the umpire is out of earshot.

But McEnroe seems to be in all sorts of problems against Lendl. The first sign that the Czech had caught up with the former Number One came at Dallas, in the World Championship Tennis final on the indoor Supreme court surface. McEnroe took only fourteen games from his opponent as Lendl marched away with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory. Lendl had also straight-setted McEnroe 6-4, 6-2 in the semi final of the Masters, which he went on to win. These two matches in particular posted the warning that Lendl would be around at the top for some time.

It is said that McEnroe has always respected Lendl's potential, from the time they first faced each other on opposite ends of a tennis court. That was way back in 1960, at the US Open, although it was a match that the American won comfortably enough. Then, the following year, Lendl beat him in straight sets at the French Open and later in a Davis Cup match at Flushing Meadow.

Lendl, since then, has established a more or less regular pattern of mastery over McEnroe, overcoming him on three surfaces: carpet, cement and clay. And just to rub salt in the wound, he stopped McEnroe even as the latter was going for his fourth successive US Open title.

A lot of people have openly sneered at Lendl's claim that he is Number One and McEnroe is one of them. He has made no secret of the fact that no player can claim to be Number One unless he has won a Grand Slam tournament and certainly one cannot disagree with McEnroe on that score. But even though Lendl has not any of the big four—Wimbledon, US Open, French Open and the Australian Open—he cannot be disregarded.

Although he has a fairly dismal record against Connors, Lendl takes pleasure in grinding McEnroe into the dust. An anecdote would suffice to prove the point. In their long-awaited WCT final clash, when he was making the then Wimbledon champion look rather ordinary, heaced McEnroe twice, forcing the American to stand way behind the baseline. Lendl noted this and made an ass of his opponent by leaving him flat footed with an underarm lollipop serve.

McEnroe, outraged, complained to umpire Ron Bennett that he was not ready. But Bennett would have none of it. "I was watching you and you looked ready to me" was his rejoinder.

Connors, Lendl, McEnroe. It will be interesting to see how long they remain the ruling triumvirate in world tennis.

DAVID McMAHON



Major Ivan Lendl
IVAN LENDL
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Round one to Pakistan

Abdul Qadir proved it once again while Zaheer chipped in with the bat to send Australia to a humiliating defeat. A CORRESPONDENT observes

THAT countries are difficult to beat in cricket, though not impossible on their own soils was amply proved when Pakistan took on Australia in the first Test at Karachi and successfully, too. Their emergence as a super power, closely timed with Imran's dawn as a captain of major international ranking, could not have come at a better time when the Indians are just a month away from flying across the barbed partition. And Pakistan took yet another step towards proving the point, that had it not been for the umpires in Blighty the series might have been won and cricket suzerainty, more or less, confirmed. They beat Australia, sans Lillee and Greg Chappell by a margin of nine wickets that at one stage had looked imminent to spill over to an innings.

The first day ended with Pakistan clearly making definite designs to win the match Australia being reduced in their opening venture to 218 for half the side gone. And a wicket shorn of grass seemed to have everything in it to prove beneficial to the batting averages but Australia seemed determined to be proof to the contrary. With their score yet to register itself Graeme Wood was walking back almost as immediately as he had come in, caught by Bari off Imran Khan.

It looked an ominous start alright and Australia would never have quite recovered but Laird and Dyson looked assiduous enough and for most part of the first Test session of the series Pakistan's attack seemed to have been blunted. And true enough their next success was in no way related to the bowling Laird, at 71 with lunch and Australia five minutes apart hoofed down for a quickie but the incoming throw beat him to it. Scampering down, he had found Dyson rooted and spent for it Laird had made 42.

But the probing of another break through kept continually being foiled as Hughes, the following batsman and captain, and Dyson stuck gamely to the immediate task in hand and it was only after tea that the 98 run alliance was broken, Dyson at 87 bowled by the left arm spinner Qasim, yearning for a break in after summery England

Australia failed to hold on to the advantage of the day after that Hughes went, caught by Bari courtesy Qasim for 54 and Abdul Qadir, criticised for his selection in some sections quite trenchantly, chipped in with his first wicket. He had Greg Ritchie caught by Haroon Rashid with the debutant only on four. Both the left handers, Border and Marsh, saw out the day and still there was nothing that suggested that Australia would not be able to sit pretty by the time the Karachi sun sank below on the second evening.

And by the time the muezzin's call had summoned the faithfuls the following day, Australia had clearly muted it. The two overnight of Australia's sentinel had looked set to carry the fight to lunch and beyond but planning on victory's lines looked clearly disturbed when Naqqash son of the editor of the *Lahore Times* found his own way into the headlines. He tore through with four wickets in just five overs, commendable really, though his 23 runs temporarily jarred.

Naqqash had Marsh bowled for 19 and then immediately next ball had Bruce Yardley going back, caught Miandad. Then in his second over, Naqqash seemed poised for a hat-trick that never was but he came within shying distance again, this time having Ray Bright caught by Haroon off the fifth of his next over and Lawson going, caught behind, next ball. Again it was not to be.

The last of Australia, the surviving Border and Thomson smote vigorously and 29 were added in a jiffy before the latter walked out to Qadir, missed and was naturally stumped. Australia finished out at 284, Border playing himself unbeaten for 55 and Naqqash returning with four for 61 and Qadir and Qasim sharing an equal number between themselves. The spin king was yet to call for the bow everything looked like being resolved in the second innings.

The most intriguing part of the whole thing was Imran's solitary success, though there was always the consolation for him that 23 overs and 38 runs can never be deemed as a poor bowling ratio.

And Pakistan, embarking on their retaliatory, seemed to convince critics that the pitch could never be blamed for Pakistan's batting moderation—if ever it was. Their bowlers had done it. For they nullified Australia's advances to dock in the evening at 168 for two wickets, though not entirely without a Pakistani day of controversies—albeit minor—and unusualities.

Murmurings were already on the rise by the time Mansoor Akhtar had played Thomson to Bright in the gully ungrounded and the umpire had to seek a consultation because he had pleaded unsightedness arising from the players' movements. The batsman was given out at 32 but if that had not been enough for umpire Mahboob Shah then more tuggings at the heart strings were in store.

He refused an Australian clamouring for a caught behind against Mohsin Khan a couple of balls prior to tea and the 6,000 strong crowd, catalysed, spayed stones and abuse as the Aussies trooped in for the interval.

But there was more to come and Mohsin Khan—not entirely forgetting Mahboob Shah—were yet to do with. After he had seen out the Australian new ball salvo, Mohsin seemed hooked for bed and break fast but he played the last of the day, a Thomson delivery forward, found the ball spinning towards his stumps and in a reflex move bent and threw the ball away from the danger site. The players appealed for a handled the ball decision and the umpire could not but agree. Mohsin at first hung around while the others receded, half unaccepting and half confused, perhaps, but both reasons flammable for a crowd easily excitable. Nothing really happened but it underlined the importance of post play carelessness. It will make more sense if you happen to remember what Tony Greig did to Alvin Kalicharan in the West Indies, some Caribbean summers ago.

But the crowd had its velle on the third day. While Pakistan seemed reconciled to a snail shift coursing the crowd pelted as much rubbish, inclusive of oranges and onions, as could have made a Karachi grocer's shelves look post-harvest and stacked. To heighten the problem yobboes sniped open the wire meshing around the ground and diffused onto the playing area with Kim Hughes ordering his players in. That called for a 15 minute adjournment of crossfire before lunch, every ticking making victory and Pakistan look further apart.

Finally, the players decided to make another appearance, the rowdies returned and Hughes and followers vanished again. The public address system soared into higher decibels this time, undoubtedly with an eye to punishment, and suddenly order was restored.



That should have given Pakistan's batsmen the impetus to step out of their chrysalis but they didn't. All through the day they went forth by only 162 runs and lost four wickets in return. And though Zaheer made 91 and Rashid, after switching on his inspiration, scored 82, the race was yet to materialise.

By the stumps on the fourth day Abdul Qadir and Pakistan had done it. Australia had slipped to 123 for seven wickets and were struggling now to save the game with Pakistan, secreted away from any disaster imaginable, had declared their first innings at 419 for nine.

Pakistan had resumed at 330 and it was Mudassar who had taken on the responsibility akin to that once shared by Old Man River. While Imran had gone for just one, and Naqqash stumped while chasing Bright, he had striven to provide some iron to the middle order. Not that he had succeeded very greatly there for when the ball had turned older Mudassar and Qadir met each other in the middle, exchanged a few words and from then Hughes was back to scratching his hair and the stubble underlining his honest chin.

Finally, Imran sought to declare with Mudassar still there on 55 and

Qasim chipping with a couple. No two Aussies that day seemed more chuffed than Bright and Lawson, the former tethering the Pakis in the dark and the other, the quickie, striking a length. Bright had figures of 36-8-96-3 and Lawson an impressive mathematics of 39-10-93-2.

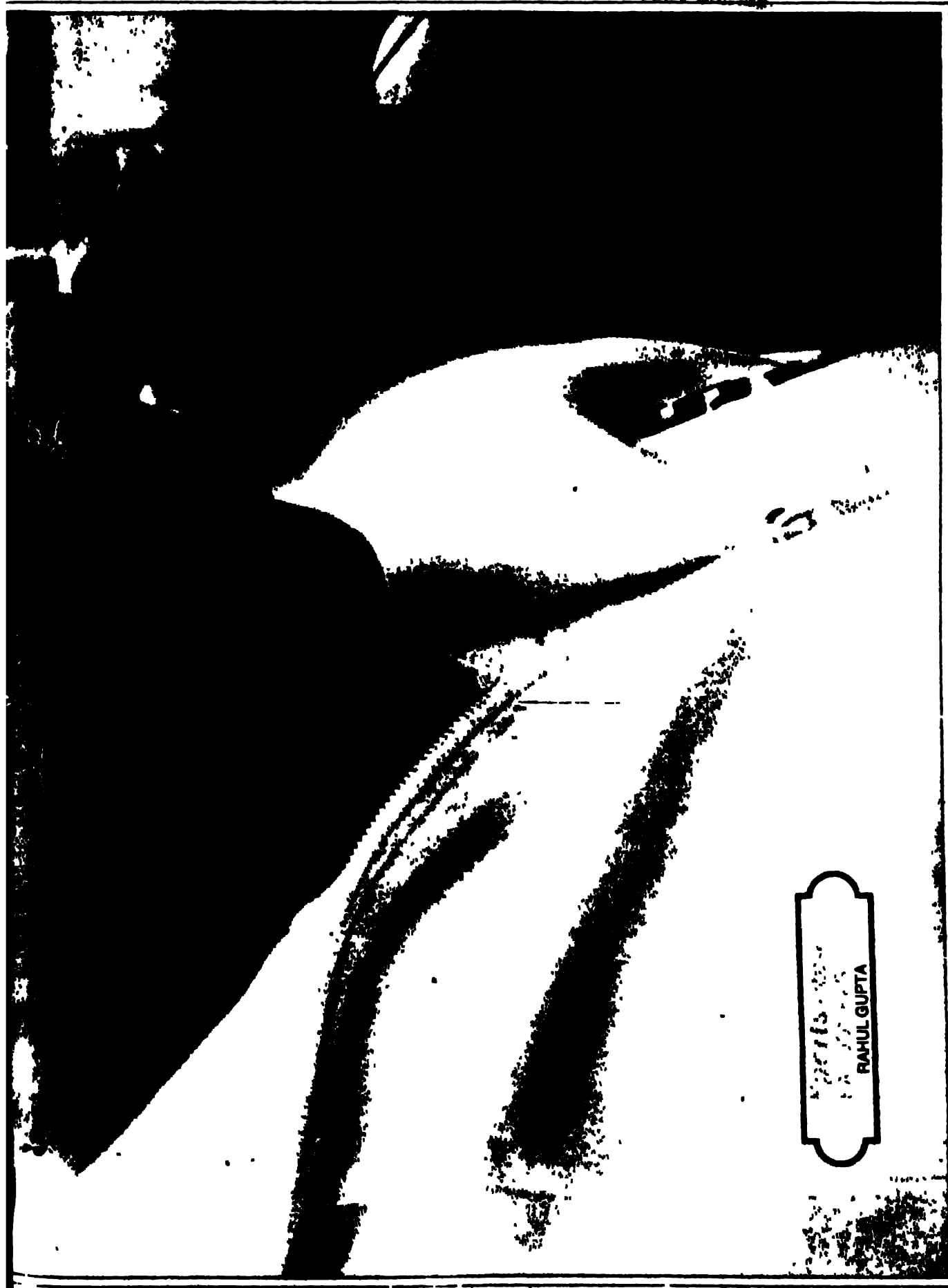
If Australia had found reasons for contentment on a terrifying job indifferently done then the kill-joy was a tea break away. For Abdul Qadir, beginning with a spell of three wickets for seven in five overs, extended the range of his repertoire and damage to five for 44 in a score of overs. By the end of the day's play the Australian wheeze was distinctly pronounced. Seven wickets for 123, which had once been 77 for as many wickets, did not look good at all.

Imran as usual had taken opener Laird at 10 to clinch the break through. Then Qadir, pitched in early, had Wood going, caught by Malik and Dusen was bowled for six. The slide had begun. Border went, caught by Malik again and Hughes topped the day of Australian diffidence by being caught by Bari for a mere 14. Qasim wrapped up Ritchie, clean bowled, and Qadir, all flight and mesmer interspersed by the googly, finished the day by bowling Yardley

The fifth day was a mere formality. Though Qadir captured no more wickets, Qasim and Imran split each between themselves and Australia went down for 179. At 13 after adding 64 with Bright, Mar went lbw, victim to Imran. Lawson the next batsmen, was the prey. Miandad's alert anticipation close the wicket. The batsman had played defensively to Qadir, then overstepped and by the time he had maintained intentions to get back the bails had fallen, run out. Thomson looked like hitting hard though never for long and, when Bari had held tight to Qasim, Pakistan had done it.

On two counts this Test match despite some untidy scenes of indiscipline, will, perhaps, be remembered. It was refreshing to find Qadir—a leg spinner at that—being selected as the Man of the Match opportunity enough for Bill Frind to delve into his minutiae to tell the last time when one of Qadir's had done so. The other aspect, remember, and one hopes the other captains of today will give a hearing was Hughes' attitude after the game, blaming neither the umpires nor the Karachi wicket for the humble, Cool breeze in a cricket world forever changing.





RAHUL GUPTA

India-Sri Lanka one-day international

Dias holds pride of place but....

PARTAB RAMCHAND reports from Bangalore

INDIA completed a grand clean sweep of their three one-day internationals against Sri Lanka, when they defeated them by six wickets in the final game at Bangalore on 26 September. India had won the earlier encounters at Amritsar and Delhi.

It was sweet revenge for the home team who had suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka in the 1979 World Cup. It was for the first time that the teams were meeting since then and India wiped out the earlier memory by their fine show in the three games this time. Their superiority was never in doubt and, in fact, they seemed to have gone from strength to strength. From all accounts, the victory at Bangalore was the most facile, a fact that is easily conveyed by the victory margin—six wickets and with 104 overs to spare.

India were again without Gavaskar who on the morning of the match expressed his inability to play because of a sprained neck. Gavaskar may be indispensable but his not playing is hardly a handicap in the one-day matches, given his record. Kapil Dev, who led India in the games at Amritsar and Delhi, was, thus, again in charge and India's third successive victory was in a way a personal triumph for him. He led the side well, kept things well under his control and altogether was an inspiring figure on the field. He is obviously the Indian captain of the future.

Sri Lanka's batting hinged almost throughout the tour on two players—Dias and Mendis. And at Bangalore, too, there was no exception to this rule. The two figured in the highest stand of the game—57 for the third wicket. But Mendis' contribution this time was restricted to 23. And Dias had to plough a lonely furrow.

Dias' legitimate place is at number three but on this tour he is virtually been an opening batsman. It was the same at Bangalore. He came in when the shine was very much there. Warnapura had fallen in the third over but this did not in any way curb his strokeplay. Essentially an attacking batsman, he kept striking at the bowling with shots of

power and precision.

Wettimuny helped him add 47 runs for the second wicket and then came that stand with Mendis. The sudden fall of Mendis, however, meant that Dias had to virtually carry the rest of the batting on his shoulders. He bent his head down to the task but now and then kept the runs coming and never spared the loose delivery. Fortune favours the brave and Dias took some risks that came off.

Madugalle helped Dias in increasing the score by 51 runs in a fourth wicket stand and then came the brightest part of the Sri Lanka innings, with De Mel and Dias slapping on 36 runs off four overs. De Mel provided the fireworks. First he leapt out and lofted Binny into the Club House stand. And a little later lofted Doshi. This time the ball flew into the Members Stand. He however, became turned ambitious and was bowled next ball.

Dias had meanwhile, reached his century. But after De Mel had fallen no one stayed with him long enough and with seven wickets down, Dias went for wild swipes. Finally, in the penultimate over of the innings, he lifted Kapil Dev and Srikanth took the catch at long on. Dias' was indeed a brave effort. He had made 121 out of 220, faced 144 balls and hit eleven of them to the fence.

A total of 233 could never be beyond India's reach, keeping in mind that they had overtaken a Lankan total of 277 at Delhi. And with the irrepressible Srikanth quickly into his stride there was never any doubt that India would notch up their third successive victory. Very soon in the Indian innings the only debate was the margin of victory.

Binny and Srikanth hammered 34 runs off 52 overs when the former was run out. He steered John to De Mel at third man and the batsmen completed a single. Srikanth was busy watching De Mel while Binny like a policeman with his stop sign came charging down. His run out was then a formality.

Vengsarkar joined Srikanth but was forced to play only a supporting role for the 90 minutes he was there.

For in the meantime, Srikanth blazed forth with dazzling strokes. If the ball was pitched up, he drove powerfully and handsomely with that free, flowing style of his. If it was short, he pulled and hooked with gusto and the result was almost always a boundary. He went even further, hitting Warnapura for a straight six and then lifting De Silva for another one, this time over mid off. As in a typical Srikanth innings, there were also those sudden rushes of blood consisting of careless swipes. Some strokes were not well connected and there were some near misses. The near capacity crowd—about 40,000—obviously enjoyed the batting.

Vengsarkar's batting, by comparison, looked commonplace but now and then one did see some elegant drives that only he is capable of. He spent a long time getting his eye in but once he did, he, too, went for the bowling. But he could not employ the bustling methods with the same success that Srikanth had. He essayed a big hit at De Mel but could only achieve a skier, which was converted into a well judged catch by Dias at extra cover. Vengsarkar's 42 was made off 59 deliveries and he hit three boundaries.

It is a tribute to Srikanth that even a player like Kapil Dev found it difficult to force the pace and remain at the crease. He did hit a four and a six off successive balls from De Mel, but two balls later tried to repeat the trick and was caught at long off.

Srikanth pursued the tactics with far greater success. His 92 had come in a stay of two hours. He had faced only 86 balls and hit eleven fours and two sixes. He had scored 57 and 95 in the first two matches. And it did seem conceivable that he would go one better this time. But he then went for a lusty square cut at De Silva, gave himself too much room for the stroke and left his stumps exposed. The upshot was that his off stump was disturbed. "I must cut out that shot," Srikanth told me later. "It has got me out many times this season."

Srikanth left around the halfway mark. So masterfully had he done his job that the score was already 160 and only 74 runs needed to be got. "Srikanth beat us," Mr. Schaffter had said while referring to the Amritsar and Delhi games. He didn't perhaps, have anything else to add after Bangalore.

Kapil Dev was out at 177. But the remaining 57 runs were got by Ashok Malhotra and Yashpal Sharma in a comparatively quiet and unspectacular fashion. Both found runs difficult to come by initially but they soon settled down and pierced the field time and again with drives and rasping cuts. All was finished in the 40th over.

My Madras Test 97 was the best I have played

Roy Dias talks to PARTAB RAMCHAND

MANY teams have come to India with two batsmen of great reputations. But not every time have they lived up to expectations. The exceptions are few. One can remember Weekes and Walcott of the 1948-49 West Indian side, Sobers and Kanhai of the West Indian side ten years later, and Harvey and O'Neill of the Australian side of 1959-60. By their exploits in India, certainly Mendis and Dias can take their places along with these illustrious predecessors.

Watching Dias bat on this Indian tour has been a revelation. Normally, an attacking batsman's technique can at times be faulted. But his technique is almost perfect. He leaves no gaps between the bat and pad. He sees the ball very early and has remarkable reflexes. The best sight from the visitor's point of view during the entire tour was in seeing Dias driving. The bat came down straight in a perfect arc and whether it was directed towards cover or mid off, mid on or mid wicket, the ball almost flew to the boundary. That is not to say that he could not play other strokes. With all his attacking skill Dias plays strictly according to the textbook. A Srikanth he is not, though if the situation warrants he does improvise. He is able to adapt himself to any given situation. In the first innings in the Test he scored 60 off 110 balls. But his second innings 97 was made off two deliveries less. His 121 at Bangalore was a typical one-day knock, despite the grim situation right through the innings. He faced just 144 balls.

How Dias came to play cricket itself is an interesting story. Idolising his elder brother, a first class soccer player from a Colombo college, he naturally followed in his footsteps and decided to give all his attention to this sport. But at the age of 10 he found that his new school did not have soccer as one of its games. So he turned to cricket.

In reality, he has virtually been the opening batsman. Sri Lanka has invariably lost a wicket when the shine is still on—this was very true even in India—but he has not allowed this to affect his graceful batting. He has, in fact, been the country's most consistent batsman, but in a most elegant manner. Among the Sri Lanka players, he has

earned the most praise of late both in Sri Lanka and overseas. In England last year he made 608 runs at an average of 40.5. And his record since Sri Lanka started playing Test matches is second to none. Not even the mercurial Mendis has been able to match his figures. He started off his Test career with an inauspicious duck but made a brilliant 77 in the second innings and since then has never looked back. Before coming to India he was Sri Lanka's highest run getter with 372 runs from four matches at an average of 46.50. He became the second Sri Lanka player to get a century by scoring 109 against Pakistan at Lahore. He has maintained the top position after the Indian trip and his figures now after five Tests stand at 529 runs at 52.90. Just for greater measure, he also scored centuries in successive one-day matches—a rare feat indeed.

Dias is 30 now (born October 18, 1952). He is fit, keen and skilful. With all his natural gifts there is no reason to believe that he won't be Sri Lanka's kingpin of their batting for some years to come. Married for the last five years to a girl who followed his cricket career from the time she was a little girl, Dias recently joined the famous Maharaja's Organisation to further his cricket career. That's ambition for you. Good as he is, he still wants to get better. That should be a comforting thought for the Sri Lankans.

SPORTSWORLD Your 97 in the Madras Test was a highly acclaimed innings. How would you rank it?

ROY DIAS, Yes, even I think it was the best innings I have ever played. I came in at a critical stage. We were 220 runs behind and had lost our first second innings wicket in the opening over. But I had no problems with the bowling and went straightaway for my shots, all of which came off.

SW: Nothing it seemed would stop you from reaching your hundred. Your dismissal was quite sudden. How did it come about?

RD: I had made up my mind to get the three remaining runs needed for my hundred in singles. I went for the cut but that particular ball from Shukla was a googly which I misread.

Also, I guess, I played a little too early.

SW: You have had two centuries in one-day matches on this tour—a rare feat. Which do you rank the better?

RD: I suppose the one at Bangalore because I played a lone hand. I am essentially an attacking batsman but after the fall of Duleep (Mendis) I knew there was little batting to come and so I put my head down and played a responsible knock. When you do make 121 out of a total of 233, it does feel nice.

SW: You have impressed everyone by your attacking skill. Where you always like this or were you at any time a defensive batsman?

RD: As far as I can remember, I have always believed in going for my shots and I particularly enjoy driving.

SW: What is your opinion on the wickets in this country?

RD: They are a bit on the slow side. But the Madras wicket was easily the best pitch. It was a beauty. We would have batted on three more days on that track. The next best would be the one at Bangalore.

SW: You have got runs in one-day games and a five-day Test. It is quite rare to get runs so consistently in both types of matches, which are so different.

RD: Yes, I guess I am able to adapt my natural style which is better for the one-day game than for the longer five-day match.

SW: Going back to the Madras Test, you did experience some difficulty against Doshi initially but then came out on top gradually and played him confidently.

RD: I guess, I am indebted to Vishwanath for that. In the first innings even though I got 60 I must admit that I was not very comfortable against Doshi. I was trying to hit him against the spin to the on side. On the next day, during the dinner given by the Cricket Control Board, Vishwanath advised me to play Doshi straight instead of across. These were the tactics I employed in the second innings and they came off rather well. I thought. Thank you, Vishy!

SW: Did you model your play after any batsman?

RD: I don't know about that but I have always admired Vivian Richards for his shots on the leg side. I have also liked watching Zaheer Abbas, Vishwanath and Gavaskar.

SW: Who is the fastest bowler that you have faced?

RD: I reckon that would be Imran Khan. He moves the ball very well and late and can be pretty dangerous, too!

SW: And the best spinners?

RD: Among the present lot, Underwood and Doshi. Of course, your spin quartet—Bedi, Chandra, Prasanna and Venkat—was the greatest.

SW: What are your future plans?

RD: To serve Sri Lankan cricket for as long as I can.



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

IFA SHIELD

Outstation teams outclassed

As in the previous years Calcutta teams dominated this year's tournament. Mohammedan Sporting pulled off a sensational victory over League champions East Bengal, while Mohun Bagan brushed aside the challenge of Bombay Harwood League champions Mahindras

IS the IFA Shield going the way of the Beighton Cup? It seems there is a difference. While the Indian Football Association is financially well off, the Bengal Hockey Association is impoverished. Nonetheless, the BHA somehow manages to get outstation team for the Beighton Cup, but what explanation can the IFA give when its invitees are mediocre?

Prior to the Shield the IFA boasts

that it is obtaining big teams. But as the tournament progresses, some of the star teams cry off due to "unavoidable circumstances". In a way, the organisers are lucky that the best outfits, namely the Big Three belong to Calcutta and therefore guarantee a good amount from gate receipts.

One line of reasoning as to why the better teams bypass the tournament is that the IFA is not willing to

provide better 'incentives'. This may be the cause for the last minute withdrawal of JCT Phagwara and Vasco. Or was it that both the outstation sides refused to play the clusters in the districts? Some of the better known teams that played in the districts expressed displeasure at the fact that they were required to qualify for the tournament proper.

While Calcutta's three big clubs were given direct entry into the quarter-finals, Bombay's Mafatlal (last year's Shield semi-finalist) had to qualify from the clusters. This was humiliating to a certain extent because the Phagwara outfit found a berth straight into the last eight. That, Mafatlal made their exit in the pre-quarters at the hands of BNR is incidental. These problems notwithstanding, the IFA can take the credit for giving the districts the chance to organise soccer matches and see top players in action.

The best among the visiting teams was the Bombay outfit Mahindra and Mahindra, which had no trouble eliminating George Telegraph in the last 16 stage. That could conceivably have had problems against JCT but the latter withdrew.

Other teams like Gorkha Brigade (RPI), Neemuch, Lucknow's Central Command, Jamshedpur SA, Cuttack Combined and Kamptee Colliery of Madhya Pradesh were eliminated from the clusters.

Mohammedan Sporting returned to the fray after a lapse of a year. Last year's league champions expressed their inability to participate in 1981 because of injuries. This year, during the IFA Shield tournament the black-and-whites had to shuttle between Calcutta and Gauhati because of the Bordoloi Trophy which they lost to Dempo.

Among the three Bombay outfits, Air India was the first to bow out when Mohammedan SC star Iranian Majid Basker etched up the second hat-trick in the quarter-final encounter (the first hat-trick in the tournament was scored by Gorkha Brigade's Indar Bahadur Limbo against Malda DSA at Malda). Much was expected of the Air India-Mohammedan SC match but the wily Majid nailed them in style. The Tata team was the next to make its exit against East Bengal in the quarters. But the Bombay side was forced out of the tournament even before it took the field. In an IFA circular to Mohammedan Sporting it was stated that the semi-final between East Bengal and Mohammedan SC would be played as an exhibition match on 27 September on the Mohun Bagan ground. There can be no better example of the IFA's carelessness. To a certain extent, this had an adverse effect on the Tata team. Spectators expected a great deal, but in an otherwise mediocre match, Kartick Sett netted the all-important goal to enable his side to meet Mohammedan Sporting in the semis.



Tata's Koshi moves to intercept Mihir Bose during the quarter-final match which East Bengal won

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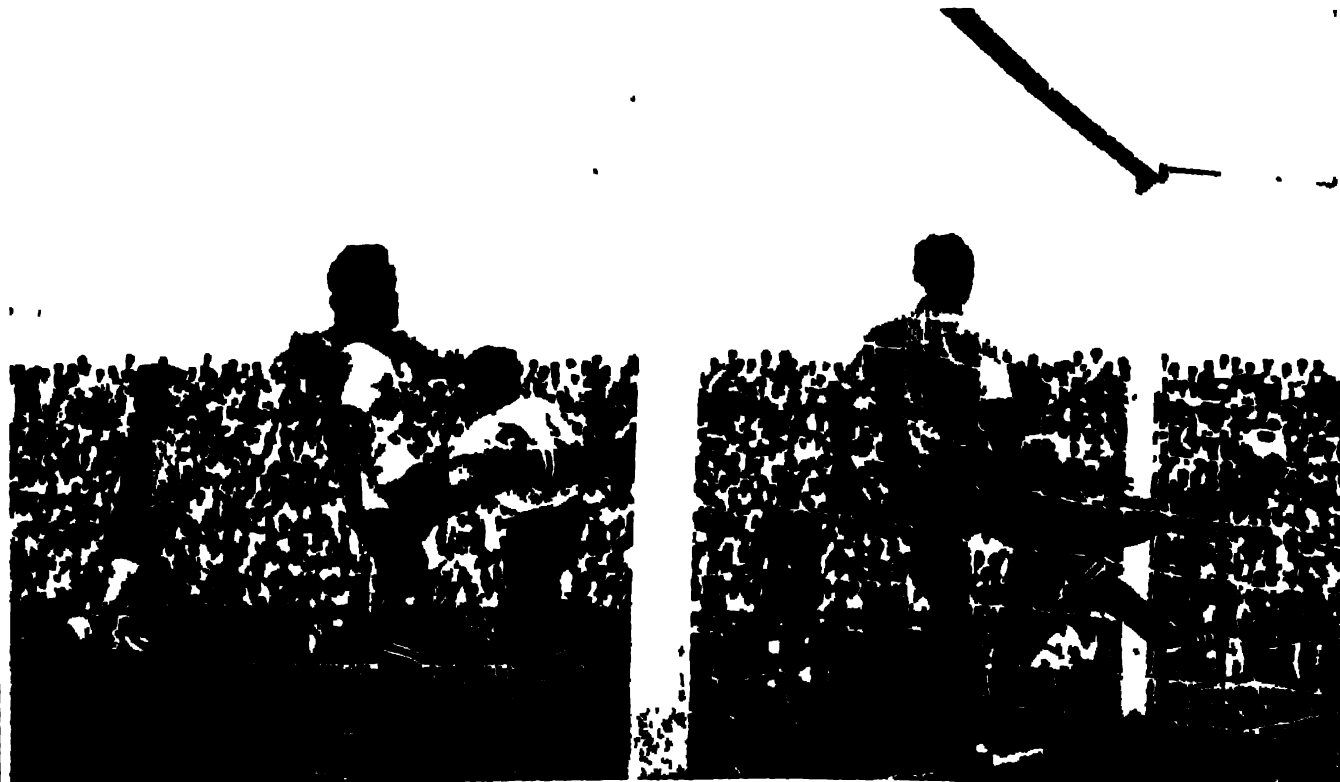
It is not always the performance that counts. Goal decides matches. And in the first of the semi-finals, between East Bengal and Mohammedan S C there was hardly anything to write home performance-wise. Both teams had an equal number of chances. East Bengal dominated the exchanges in the first half and came close to scoring and though the black-and-whites retaliated, they lacked sharpness. East Bengal took full advantage of the vital midfield because of Khabazi's shabby display which forced his colleague Debashis Mishra to perform at peak efficiency. Had Khabazi done better, the forwards would have had more punch.

For the first 25 minutes, East Bengal pounded the rival defence and in the process Arup Das lost two opportunities, the sort of which are rarely seen in such encounters. After these two misses, East Bengal piled on the pressure but Kartick Sett's appalling performance ruined almost all the moves, while Subir Sarker had the pace but lacked finish. Swapan Routh was very sincere in midfield but he looked off colour while Amalraj, apart from a superb 30-yard shot, was off form. In the defence, Balaji Mukherjee and Chinmoy Chatterjee did their job well, but Tarun Dey turned out to be the day's best performer.

Mohammedan S C came back on the scene after halftime and Majid was in his element. However, the way Tarun Dey—who made his big match debut—bottled up the Iranian, earned the former the applause.



Mohammedan S C goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh stretches fully trying to save Pulek Biswas's penalty kick



Kartick Sett scores against Tata

of the crowd. In his 110 minutes of play he made very few mistakes. Goalkeeper Tapash Chakraborty was confident under the bar but he made one mistake that almost cost the team dearly when Debashis Ray found the mark. However, referee Mr. K. Murthy was quick to blow for an infringement.

Pratap Ghosh was instrumental in guiding Mohammedan S.C. to the final after eleven years. He was as confident as his counterpart from the start till the tie breaker. Except for Debashis Ray the four others—Moudul Islam, Musheer Ahmed, Anudev Das and Majid—converted perfectly their penalty shots while East Bengal's best shot came from Chinnoy Chatterjee. Mohammedan S.C. meets Mohun Bagan in the final.

THE green and maroon-shirted Calcutta outfit who are the holders of the Federation Cup salvaged some of their lost prestige when after a disappointing show at the Calcutta League they entered the final of the IFA Shield brushing aside the challenge of Bombay's Harwood League champions by three goals to nil. This win gives them the opportunity of trying to win the Shield outright for six years on the trot.

Mahindra and Mahindra looked a tired lot when they took the field against Shyam Thapa's boys. The latter had to wait till nine minutes

before lemon time to go into the lead. However, there was never any doubt that the Calcutta team would win as they were superior in all departments of the game. Subrata Bhattacharya the Bagan stopper was a cut above the rest and along with Satyaji Ghosh nullified the few attempts the Bombay team made. Mahindras played the 4-3-3 system while Mohun Bagan played Gautam Sarkar and Bikash Panji as linkmen with Amitava Mukherjee being used as a defensive winger. Mukherjee was a little off colour on this day but did make amends when he scored a gem of a goal to take his side ahead. Keeping his cool he pulled the ball onto his left foot after which he found the top left hand corner of the net.

Krishanu Dev the Bagan striker, a wonderful ball player but seemed to be goal shy, and should have scored a goal or two on this day. Shyam Thapa tried very hard throughout the match and was rewarded when he scored his side's second goal. Gautam Sarkar scored from a typical free kick from thirty yards giving goalkeeper A. Perera no chance. The Mahindra custodian, however, had a good match plucking the ball cleanly from the air on many occasions.

For some explicable reason Surajit Sengupta who was brought on late in the second half got into a tiff with

Rafi the Mahindra left back bringing to an end a match which otherwise was played in the best of spirits.

MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING forced their way into the semi-finals by routing Air India 3-0 in the quarter final. The hero of the day was Majid Baskari who made an impressive comeback from his relatively poor form this season by scoring a superb hat-trick. The other Iranian, Jamshed Nasiri, who along with the former had most of the time been under fire for their indifferent performances in the recently concluded league championships, also played a much improved game and created a number of openings from one of which Majid got his first goal in the 17th minute of the first half.

Majid's second goal was a treat to the eyes. Receiving a clever pass from Mushtaq Ahmed he rushed to the top of the box and unleashed a powerful shot which found the left corner of the net to make it 2-0 for Mohammedan S.C.

The third goal was the result of a clever piece of opportunism by Mohammedan Sporting's Ullam Manandar who, cashing in on a confused situation in front of the Air India goal, booted the ball to Majid who made no mistake to complete his hat-trick.

MOHUN BAGAN opened their Shield campaign with a 2-0

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East Bengal's Tapan Das and Tata Shukra fight for control of the ball

tory over BNR. But the result was by no means an index of the standard of the big club's game. They started on an indifferent note and did not make sincere effort to improve their performance. Even worse was the case with BNR. Though they had offered a stiff resistance to this on paper-superior rivals and been involved in a 11 draw in their league encounter, the BNR players showed little seriousness in doing justice to themselves.

In the first half, only once did they come close to the scoring range when Kishore Das wasted a good opportunity by heading the ball over from a handshaking distance.

The first goal came in the 77th minute following a free-kick awarded to Mohun Bagan just three yards away from the penalty box. Gautam Sarkar unleashed a pile driver which beat a helpless Kunal Mukherjee, the BNR custodian, who chose to position himself behind the

'wall', thereby making himself vulnerable to powerful shots.

The second goal came from a penalty, taken by Subrata Bhat tacharya, only five minutes after the first one had been scored. However, many doubted if the referee's decision regarding the penalty was justifiable.

EAST BENGAL were undoubtedly the favourites in this year's shield tournament. Naturally, a large number of people thronged the club ground with great expectations to see the league champions put up a spirited performance in their important quarter-final match against Tata Sports of Bombay. The East Bengal boys did not disappoint their fans. Right from the kick-off they sought to play a constructive game and made quite a few quick inroads into the rival goal area. Only a little bit of finish on the part of the frontliners would have taken the team into a comfortable lead in the first half

itself.

However, that is not to mean that Tata Sports, the runners-up of the Bombay Warwood league, were totally on the receiving end in the first session. They also looked considerably thrustful and launched a few moves into the East Bengal defence zone. But a lack of rhythm and coordination in their attacks, caused by the poor performance of the half liners, especially Joseph Machado, a former player of East Bengal, proved their undoing in most cases.

The match-winner came immediately after the interval through a Mihir Bose-Kartick Sett combined move which saw the latter head the ball past the advancing Tata Sports custodian Bandiya. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Mihir Bose was the chief architect of the home team's success.

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9

"THIS appears to be yet one more regrettable example of the incompetence of officials to handle the sport in the proper interest of the competition"—Sebastian Coe, over allegations that he had failed to announce his

(The Cuddles)
"SECOND" was the result of my own desire to be David Byrne. "I DIDN'T want to do five acts, I was doing my extra act, and I was fourth and I didn't have any left," says Connors on his second

SPORT QUOTE

St. John's, Wilkes,
died in 1945 but repro-
duced in *The Guardian*
recently.

IT DOESN'T have much flow
but if I'm a little
tired, it's a little more
like a little more like
a little more like a
little more like a
little more like a

"I FOR one find it extremely difficult to understand why it should be considered at best indecency and at worst outrageous criticism a cricket umpire when on a hot sunny day is wearing white clothes in any other walk of life. Of course the umpire has a difficult job to do. But then so does the Prime Minister."—Auntie school.

To commemorate the Asian Games, State Bank salutes the unknown and unsung sportsman

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CALCUTTA

Humiliating experience

WHY were the three Iranian footballers, Majid, Jamshed and Khabazi stopped by the Gauhati Airport security staff and sent back on the next flight to Calcutta when they went along with Mohammedan Sporting to participate in the Bordoloi Trophy? The short drama that was enacted still remains a mystery. The Iranians who have been in India for four years found the whole incident very humiliating.

In spite of producing both passports and visas to the concerned authorities the Iranians were still not allowed entry. On reaching Calcutta they contacted the club football secretary Ghulam Mustafa who was dumbfounded after being told of the whole episode.

While studying at Aligarh University the Iranians picked up a name for themselves throughout India. What is most surprising is why they weren't refused permission to enter when they played in the earlier rounds of the Bordoloi? However, Jamshed said that they had got the hint that special permission had to be sought from Delhi before entering Assam.

On the first night at Gauhati they were confronted by the police but the Assam Football Association came to the rescue. Since Assam is under President's Rule and presently gripped by the 'foreigners issue' the call for strict vigilance is all the more imperative.

Confronted with this embarrassing situation the Iranians were promised that the problem would be sorted out before the semi-finals. Of course the club tried to pursue the Assam Football Federation for a decision but the hosts pleaded their inability and asked the club to get a clean chit from the Home Ministry. That was enough. They proceeded no further. The Iranians were given to understand that they had been given the permission. At the airport, while the rest of the team were allowed entry, the Iranians were not. All thanks to the lethargy of the club officials.

Row with the rowers

Taking over from Goodvear, the Lake Club and the Indian Oxygen Limited in a joint venture took care of the sixth year of the IOL Open Handicap Regatta at the Rabindra Sarobar lake. The idea of holding this competition was to

promote rowing among the students and it has paid dividends. And why shouldn't the youngsters take advantage? By paying a nominal Rs. 50 the novices get two months of free training and also get familiar with the Lake Club equipment. Another highlight is that due to this handicap women, too, have joined the fray. CRC fielded an all women's team which was edged out in the quarter-finals probably due to the lack of endurance for the 880 yards course. Then again, there was a keen tussle for the wooden spoon between Lake Club Blue and Capital White. Bengal's ace swimmer Sheeparna Banerjee stroked for Lake Club. Capital had cox veteran Manish Sarkar with his daughter Benita, Thirita Dutta and Aditi Roy Choudhury and yet another veteran Jolly Kaul. It may sound odd but it's true—never in the history of rowing had there been ladies rowing against men and both the organisers and sponsors have earned a rare distinction.

However, the smooth and friendly competition was stained by hooliganism. Calcutta University Rowing Club has earned a bad reputation for their goondarism at the lake. They gave vent to their feelings when some CURC rowdies beat up starter Pankaj Basu, a regular member of the Lake Club. There was a big gash under his left eye and he had to be rushed for first aid. The reasoning of the varsity team was that they got a bad start in their semifinal against the Pot-Hunters, who were declared

winners. The organisers have taken a strong stand against the CURC and the local police was asked to intervene. Such clubs should be debarred from competitions henceforth. Even the Rowing Federation of India secretary, Subrata Dutta, condemned the misbehaviour and strongly urged the State Rowing Association to bar the university from taking part in meets for one year. Or, even if they are allowed to participate, then the Vice-Chancellor must guarantee that his students behave properly.

Pot-Hunters met CICO in the final which the latter won, giving them the IOL Trophy.

SUBHASH SARKAR

More on Sir Julien Cahn

It was pleasant to meet cricket veteran Kartick Bose, 75, some days ago and he said in the midst of a conversation that he had actually played against Sir Julien Cahn's eleven when he had gone as part of the Rajputana team to England in 1938. This, if the reader has read the 29 September issue of this magazine, shall make much sense and Mr Bose was quoted thus: "I got 29 in the first innings—hit eight boundaries in it—and 104 in 80 minutes off the second! And there were five of Hammond's side playing in the match. There were also players like Mudge, Jack-



The State Kumite and Kata meet organised by the All India Kochi Jaken Karate do and sponsored by Boys Scouts of Bengal was held on the Calcutta Maidan where 150 participants from eight districts were seen in action. Purna Sarkar was the men's champion while Ashis Kumar was the best among the boy katas. Picture shows Purna Sarkar (left) and Shymal Pal in a demonstration bout.

son Lush and Walsh. Some of them went back to tell Bradman, who was touring at that time, that the Rajputana side had brought along a couple of good players. Sir Don showed his interest and asked me to join him on the coming Saturday for practice at Old Trafford. But, you know, Ian cashire were having a poor season that year financially and Bradman was forced to play. 'Unlucky Kar tickda'.

I tried to check this up in *Wisden* fruitlessly. They had omitted the very mention of it. However, they had recorded the match that the Rajputana side had played against Cambridge University and Mr Bose had acquitted himself quite fairly—38 and 54 in a game in which Test players Paul Gibb, Norman Yardley and I. G. Mann had also taken part.

MUMBAI: PATHERIA

Tollygunge Club—End of the race?

It was coming for a long time. So it was no real surprise. Calcutta is perhaps the only centre in India where racing is held at two places in the city. The illustrious Royal Calcutta Turf Club (RCTC) holds winter and monsoon meetings on the picturesque racecourse at Hastings while the Tollygunge Club situated in the southern most part of Calcutta have their own Gomkhana races. Only amateur riders and trainers are allowed to participate. The professional, of course, battle against one another at the RCTC course.

Amateurism has taken its toll and the club authorities have decided to cancel this year's autumn meeting at Tollygunge. Inter-venue betting has become very popular not only in Calcutta but throughout the country and this is the primary reason why the meet at Tolly has been cancelled.

However, Bob Wright, Senior Steward of the Tollygunge Club, has disclosed that negotiations are on with the RCTC to hold the summer meeting of the club's races at the RCTC course at Hastings. One sincerely hopes that this materialises or else this might just be the end of horse racing at the Tolly.

DEREK SMITH

MADRAS

No eyes!

FOOTBALL fans are knowledgeable and can't be fooled as teams from State Bank of India and Integral Coach Factory discovered during the 11th Champions Cup Football Tournament at Vellore, 120 kilometres from here. Both the teams had already qualified for the semi-finals and therefore indulged

in some dilly dalliving. There seemed no intention among the players to score.

The spectators were quick to see through these farcical proceedings. A section of them walked out and demanded the return of their tickets, money saving that they had come to watch football and not horse play. Then some spectators directly interfered with the play by rushing on to the field. There was a melee and a tree for all. Stones and chappals were thrown from the stands out of the ground. One intrepid spectator got possession of the ball and refused to part with it. With the situation fast deteriorating the referee had no option but to call off play.

Another win for Rohtas

WHEN a cricket Test match is being played, everything else comes to a standstill. So it was this week in Madras when the inaugural Test match between India and Sri Lanka was held. There was hardly any other event gone through, the only notable exception being Dunlop Open Golf Championship.



Rohtas Singh, the 26 year-old Delhi caddie, who had earlier picked up the title in the Wills Open Tournament here, won the Dunlop Open too. Rohtas finished with an aggregate of 285 at the end of the four round event, his scores being a consistent 78, 69, 68 and 70. The guindy links were difficult to handle and the weather was hardly conducive to good golf. But Rohtas kept his poise, played well and bagged the Rs 2000 first prize. He had pocketed Rs 3000 for winning the Wills Open title.

Calcutta caddie Nani who was in the lead initially before surrendering it to Rohtas finished second with a score of 292.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

BOMBAY

Testing time

ANY more proof, not that it was needed, that Test cricket is all we Indians are concerned with comes through in the following episode.

With a view to 'catch 'em young' a few genuine lovers of the game in Bombay, conducted a cricket tournament for boys under 15 years of age. The eligibility for playing in this event was that the school must be situated in north Bombay. By itself it seemed a good move since those in the city had ample opportunities and resources to display their cricketing talent.

The organisers of the Bhagubhai Khichadia Memorial tournament even managed to get the Bombay selectors to watch the finals so that the performances of the boys were not ignored.

But in its fourth year the tournament's survival on the cricketing calendar of the year for the city is in jeopardy. The reason not enough entries to justify conduct of the tournament. Apparently the schools have pleaded 'lack of funds' for their non participation. A sorry state of affairs.

Eventually one imaginative sponsorship by commercial organisations is the only hope for conducting junior tournaments. And yet the Board of Control for Cricket in India is the richest sports body in the country.

Yachting—Step daughter of Appu

UNDOUBTILY because yachting as an event is not being held for the Asian in Delhi proper, it is being denied the limelight. This is because all the glamour, the VIP's and paraphernalia is confined to Delhi. Yachting is being held in Bombay.

But the apathy of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee is dit-

COUNT DOWN 7

In a spot of trouble

THE countdown seems to be running into trouble. At the time of writing, at least two disciplines have been dropped from the Final Games because contrary to the earlier assurances of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, the infrastructure could not be got ready in time. Gymnastics was struck off the schedule because the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium was not prepared for the event. As for weightlifting, it was a non starter. It had to be scrapped for the same reason. A lot of work still remains to be done on the weightlifting arena at the Asian Games Village.

For all the hustle and bustle to dress up the various venues, the picture is far from heartening. But venues, infrastructure and organisation is only one aspect of an Asian Games. The preparation of our probables also has not been able to raise much hope. Excepting for the performance of the boxers at the Seoul Asian Meet there has been little to enthuse over in our ventures abroad.

The Pragati Maidan offices of the SOC which will soon be shifted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, are a beehive of activity and also the inevitable petty intrigue as more and more people wait in the hope of being recognised for their past contributions to the cause of Indian sport. Particularly sore are some proud old timers who have no roles to play in spite of their redoubtable credentials.

No history of Indian sport can be taken as complete without an honourable mention of Mohan Chand Dhawan, India's triple jump representative at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games and later secretary of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India for

many years, is now in his seventies and lives a retired life at Ajmer. He has taught many a generation of boys at the famous Mayo College. The man who first gave Indian athletics a sense of direction is still one learns in good health.

Indian athletics has not had a better team at the helm than Raja Bhalidra Singh and M C Dhawan. While the first named is a key man in the Asiad '82 set up, the other has been sadly forgotten. An appropriate honour for M C Dhawan would be to bear the Asian Games torch into the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and light the flame.

Indian sports fans of an older generation will also remember the late S S (Shereef) Dhawan, elder brother of "M C". The Asian Games movement itself would not have made a start but for men like Shereef Dhawan, one of the great pillars of the first Games in New Delhi in 1951 and right hand man of Anthony De Mello, Director of Asiad '51. The letter by Shereef's widow in a national daily complaining against the manner in which her husband's name has been omitted from the history of the first Games should have stirred the conscience of the men in the SOC.

When the hockey probables go into training again at the National Stadium one hopes one will no more hear of twisted ankles and torn muscles. The lack of water on the astro turf pitch has been blamed for the injuries suffered by some of our players, including Mervyn Fernandes whose

foot was put in plaster because of a hairline fracture. But is water, or rather the lack of it, really responsible for the injuries? The juniors, who had trained on the same pitch before Kuala Lumpur, had no such complaints. Only the "butra" players run the risk of injuries, as one National Stadium "regular" unkindly remarked.

Whatever the truth about the injuries, the lack of adequate watering arrangements at the National Stadium is cause for serious concern. Synthetic pitches, whatever the brand—astro turf or polygras or any other—need to be watered both before the start of every match and at half time. For the watering system to be adequate, 5,000 litres should be sprayed in five minutes—i.e. at the rate of 1,000 litres a minute. This unfortunately is not so at the National Stadium—not yet. They tried doing it once and the pipe burst under the pressure.

Many months ago the PWD are reported to have sent one of its engineers to study how the Pakistanis watered the astro turf pitch at Karachi. Obviously, the man returned without learning much. The Pakistanis do it manually, several men watering the pitch with hose pipes in such a manner that the whole operation is over in five minutes. The Soviets at Moscow's Dynamo Stadium did it with the help of jets from a tanker which was towed round the pitch. This is just in case our PWD man had not taken his notes.

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ficult to stomach. The AGSOC has yet to keep some of its promises to the Yachting Committee and has been treating it like a "step daughter".

The AGSOC had agreed to provide finance so that among other things, students could watch the events at a nominal price. But with the money yet to arrive the Yachting Committee may have no other alternative but to charge Rs 10 per day if it has fixed for students.

Moreover, the AGSOC gave all the Asiad probables a track suit. Oddly enough, the yachting probables never received their gear. When contacted an AGSOC official explained the lapse. "Because we forgot that yachting was being held in Bombay."

Lastly, the yachting probables are supposed to be getting Rs 26 by way of daily allowance and travel allowance. Will it ever come?

HARESH MUNWANI

BANGALORE

Bankers' chess

BOMBAY'S RBI'S V. N. Ghate, Bannexed the second All India Bankers' chess title, when he scored a superb victory over clubmate V. G. Sthalekar in the seventh and final round. Ghate finished with six

points, a clear half point ahead of Union Bank's Ravi Hegde, in the seven-round swiss.

Ravi Hegde claimed the second spot with a win over D. K. Desai. It was a clean sweep by the Bombay bankers since they walked away with the first six places.

The title holder S. N. Ravishankar of Canara Bank was shunted down to seventh place with a tally of 4½ points.

The final standings were as follows: V. N. Ghate—1, Ravi Hegde—2, V. G. Sthalekar (RBI)—3, S. G. Joshi (UB)—4, R. Gokhale (UB)—5, Ram Mohan (BOI)—6, S. N. Ravishankar (Canara Bank)—7, N. P. Prasad (BOI Vizag)—8, Manohar Hegde (Canara Bank)—9.

Keen contests at Bangalore tennis

THE recently concluded Bangalore City Institute Open Tennis Tournament saw some keen contests even though the general standard of tennis left a lot to be desired.

Except for a few juniors and sub-juniors from Madras, the other participants were from Karnataka. The players from Mysore proved to be a cut above their counterparts from Bangalore. Three out of four semi-finalists in the men's singles were from Mysore. The presence of some

more players from Madras would have definitely resulted in better tennis.

N. P. Raghuveter (Mysore) scored a creditable double in the men's events. He won the singles by upsetting topseed and favourite B. R. Privadarshi 6-3, 2-6, 6-2. Privadarshi, who had won the State championships a few months back, beating the US based Ilangovan easily in the final was unusually erratic against Raghuveter. He played exceedingly well in the second set but committed a lot of unforced errors in the first and third sets. Raghuveter completed a double, when partnering Privadarshi, defeated Rajeev and Ravindranath (Madras) 6-4, 5-3.

Earlier this year Raghuveter played for a few months in the Satellite Circuit abroad. This short stint appears to have done him tennis a lot of good. On the other hand Privadarshi is doing a lot of coaching these days which may be one of the factors for him not playing at his best. However, both Privadarshi and Raghuveter were—in the absence of Raghuram, far too good for the other players and reached the final comfortably. Privadarshi beat Ramaswamy from Mysore and Raghuveter beat Arav Deo, also from Mysore 6-1, 6-2 in the other semi-final.

The Junior Singles for boys under 18 was won by Ravindranath from Madras who beat A. D. Shrivaprakash

Thirsti times Limcatimes

Thirsty? Limca with isotonic salts is the answer. This enjoyable, lime-and-lemon thirst-quencher has vitamin C too.



from Kollegal 6-1, 6-2 in a very one-sided final. Ravindranath too won a double when in tandem with Rajeev they overwhelmed Naresh Sundaram and Javed Ahmed in straight sets.

Parvathi Venkataramaiah annexed the women's title with tremendous ease. She needed just fifty minutes to emerge triumphant over C. Mary 6-3, 6-2. Parvathi used the sidelines to her advantage and tired Mary out by making her run from corner to corner. Emanuel John, Meenakshi Sundaram and Ajay Deo were the most promising juniors on view.

Mr. K. Gangadhar, Minister for Information and Youth Services distributed the awards to the winners. Earlier, Mr. H. C. Srikanthiah, Minister for Cooperation and a keen tennis player himself, inaugurated a floodlit court.

HANTU MOHANHANGAM

DELHI

Honouring the Wizard of Jhansi

THE RE is a grassless ground in Jhansi where a long time ago the late Dhyan Chand practised and practised till he achieved immortal mastery or wizardry in hockey. When he died three years ago his admirers cremated him at the very place where he had perfected his art. Soon after the cremation was born the idea of raising a suitable memorial to Jhansi's great son, who in his later years was known as *dada* to every body.

The dream came true on September 2 when a six foot statue of Dhyan Chand was unveiled on the same ground by Maj. Gen. Kler, commanding the Armoured Corps stationed in Jhansi. Money came from public donations, big and small. There was no help from the government, but these loving admirers of *dada* Dhyan Chand were not discouraged.

It is a story worth telling. A few days after Dhyan Chand's mortal remains were consigned to the flames, the Indian Airlines team, for whom Ashok Kumar Singh, the famous son of Dhyan Chand and former India captain plays, figured in a match with a Jhansi selection. The Rs. 3,500 collected from the game became the nucleus for a fund raised by the Dhyan Chand Memorial Committee of which Ashok himself is the secretary.

As time rolled by help came from various sources, including donations of Rs. 5,000 each from the Jhansi Municipal Committee and the Rotary Club. But most significant of all was the Rs. 10,000 raised by school and college students through sale of



Manmeet Singh

one rupee tickets. There was also help in kind from admirers like Mr. Vishwanath Sharma, MP and a few others of Dhyan Chand's generation.

Over Rs. 50,000 has been spent on installing the statue, sculptured by a local artiste Shiv Charan, and work has started on a stadium at the site where terraces have already come up. "It is all the result of the love the people in Jhansi's 'mohallas' had for a man who put the town on the sports map of the world," says Ashok Kumar, who hopes the day is not far when work on the stadium and a Dhyan Chand museum will be completed.

Table Tennis time

NOT even the Trial Games, held during one of the capital's worst post-monsoon dengue epidemics in recent years, could prevent "The Times of India" table tennis tournament from taking some share of the limelight. The "Times" tournament is the only prize money tournament of the capital and has, over the years, come to be regarded as one of the premier events in the table tennis calendar of the north. Even Mr. Bura Singh, Chairman of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, took time off his busy schedule at the Trial Games venues, to inaugurate the tournament.

The tournament in recent years

has been held at different centres like Lucknow and Bhopal with a view to promoting the game in a wider area. This year, in Delhi, it was held at the (IIT) Indian Institute of Technology gymnasium, Hauz Khas, which in the past has been the venue of more than one inter-university badminton tournament.

With most of the country's leading players tired after the exciting team and individual tournaments of the Trial Games, the "Times" competition suffered from lack of strong outstanding challenge though not in popularity.

Manmeet Singh forgot his brush with authority during the Trial Games which earned him a reprimand. He outclassed his senior Manjit Dua in four games to receive the handsomely carved Times Trophy from the Union Minister for Energy, Petroleum and Coal, Mr. Shiv Shankar.

Partnering Nitin Puri, Manmeet outclassed Satbir Singh and Jayant Thatte 21-17, 21-19 in the men's doubles final. Earlier, Satbir had gone down to Assam's Arun Joshi Barua 17-21, 17-21, 19-21, in the boys' final. Switching to the offensive from the word go, the Assam lad hit his way to an authentic victory.

There was only one player in the women's singles final—Indu Puri. Steadily aggressive forehand play and skilful flicking enabled the left-handed Indu to beat Rajasthan girl Shraddha Sharma 2

Evolution of the ball

The cricket ball has not undergone much change in size, weight and colour over the last two centuries. Although it has never been spelt out in laws, the ball has always been red. In 1706 in Goldwin's verses, the ball was described as "leather covered", and it was almost certainly dyed red and stuffed with hemp hair.

According to the 1774 code, the ball weighed between five and six ounces. After 30 years, the figures were reduced to 5 1/2 and 5 3/4 ounces. Since then there has been no change at all.

Only twice in the history of cricket, a ball of a different colour was used in a match. This novel thing was done because some legislators and promoters then felt that the sight of a blood-coloured ball might have an upsetting effect on their minds. So a blue ball was used. But this experiment lasted only a few days and the blue ball was replaced by a white ball. Players did approve of this innovation in 1936, but soon women cricketers returned to the use of the traditional ball, red.

The first time a code was made about the circumference of the ball was in 1844 when it was decided that the ball must measure between 9 and 9 3/4 inches. After 90 years, in 1927, the circumference was reduced to "between 8 13/16 and 9 inches". Since then, the law has remained unaltered.

Mr Brodribb says "the only difference between the modern ball and that, say, of 100 years ago, is that whereas formerly the seam used to lie flush with the surface, it now protrudes and this gives the bowler a better grip both for spin and swing. Legislators with an eye on helping the oppressed bowler have always been aware of the advantages of a good grip and in 1949 the MCC made a limited experiment in some first class matches with a ball which had a nine cord thread, instead of the usual eight cord-thread".

During the MCC tour of South Africa in 1948-49, an umpire objected to D V P Wright's habit of licking the ball between

each delivery. There are many who shine the ball with their "sweat".

According to the law, the innings should commence with the new ball until it is decided otherwise before the toss. Once the law was violated in the match between Yorkshire and Sussex in 1933 Sussex began their second innings with 17 to win and all wickets standing and after playing the first ball, F H Bowley, enquired if it was with his captain's permission that an old ball was being used. The answer was "no" and Chester the umpire, ordered a new ball to be fetched. He also said that he would have given Bowley "not out" if the bowler, G G Macaulay, had dis-

missed the batsman with that ball. Macaulay wanted one wicket for his 100th of the season, and in those circumstances preferred the use of an old ball without proper permission to use it.

According to the present day convention, the ball, even at the start of the innings, is deposited with the umpire who passes it on to the bowler. This prevents any bowler from taking undue advantage. The umpires keep the ball in their custody during intervals including drink recess.

Q State a simple method to check whether the bowling and popping creases at each end are marked parallel with each other.
A Diagonal checking.

Q Can the popping and return creases be re-marked during the drink break?

A Yes.
Q In a match of two or more days duration (a) what are the portions of the pitch and ground that can be re-turfed and (b) can the footmarks made by the bowler in front of the popping crease be re-turfed?

A (a) Pitch to be re-turfed up to delivery stride and (b) re-turfing footmarks is permissible.

Q What is the latest time by which the captain winning the toss must decide whether his team will bat or field?

A The captain winning the toss must communicate his decision 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

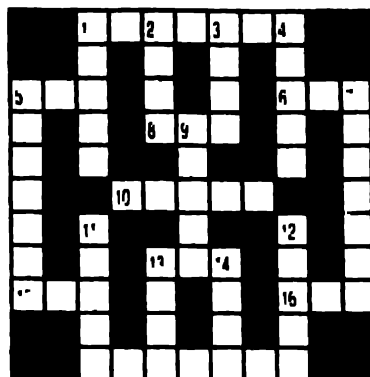
Q The injured striker who has a substitute running for him hits a ball to deep square leg. Three runs are completed and the non striker is within the crease at the striker's end and the runner for the injured batsman is within the crease of the bowler's end. The ball is thrown to the wicket keeper, who seeing the injured striker standing on the popping crease (the injured striker was watching the ball) with neither the bat nor any part of his person within 'home'. The wicket keeper puts the wicket down and claims for run out.
(a) Can the striker be given out and (b) how many runs will be credited?
A The striker is out, run out and no run will be added.



Crossword

MUDAR

167



ACROSS

- 1 Badminton star whose first name is Lius (1 6)
- 5 Golfing term which has a paternal start (3)
- 6 The Greatest (3)
- 8 West Indian batsman of another age has a hearing organ coming back (3)
- 10 What Chandra was often described as (5)
- 13 The editor of this magazine contracted to? (3)
- 15 One of the top milers of this day returns (3)
- 16 Bob Massie's first three initials, all of which return (1 1 1)
- 17 Australian off spinner now playing who begins with a measuring standard (7)

DOWN

- 1 West Indian cricketer Gomes and his heavyweight boxer of relevant importance have this in common (5)
- 2 Six deliveries in a cricket match constitute an? (4)
- 3 —, set and match! (4)
- 4 Common afflicted parts of the anatomy for both, Ashe and Ken Barrington (5)
- 5 All rounder from Cambridge, who played against India this summer at cricket (7)
- 7 This Johansson of boxing whose first name was? (7)
- 9 Where gladiator fought gladiator in the ancient days (5)
- 11 Marciano and Sylvester Stallone have something in familiar (5)
- 12 The stupidest part of cricket's point is when it is? (5)
- 13 What a batsman hates to end up with (4)
- 14 Part of an animal's posterior for a portion of the batting order (4)

Excellent : 29-18 Good : 17-15, Fair : 16-14

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

Unscramble the jumbles and find out terms related to sports and games

- 1 LLOYD
- 2 RATMOHAN
- 3 TOPIN
- 4 DLASTRED
- 5 ATKRC
- 6 REMUIP
- 7 VEETIHGWAY
- 8 EPALROV
- 9 POCOS
- 10 TEKSIRR

ANSWERS

- 10 STRIKER
- 6 SCOOP
- 8 OVERLAP
- 7 HEAVYWEIGHT
- 9 UMPIRE
- 5 TRACK
- 4 STRADDLE
- 3 POINT
- 2 MARATHON
- 1 DOLLY

Question box

Prakash Salunke, Latur, Biswajit Kar, Midnapore, Sanjay Satpathy and Sunil Padhir Varanasi

Prakash Salunke, Latur, Biswajit Kar, Midnapore, Sanjay Satpathy and Sunil Padhir Varanasi

Q Who was the first victim of Richard Hadlee in Tests?

A Asif Iqbal of Pakistan in the first Test at Wellington in 1972-73

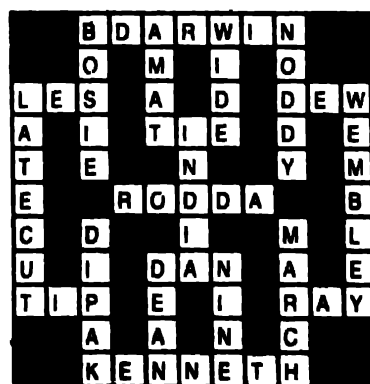
Q Please give me the dates of birth of Viv Richards Sunil Gavaskar and Greg Chappell

A Viv Richards of the West Indies was born on 7 March, 1952 Sunil Gavaskar on 10 July, 1949 and Greg Chappell of Australia on 7 August, 1948

Q How many centuries have been scored by Allan Border of Australia in Tests?

A Nine centuries in 42 Tests before embarking on the tour of Pakistan

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 166



Mirza Riba, Arunachal

Q Please give me the address of Ian Botham

A Care Somerset County Cricket Club, County Cricket Ground St James Street Taunton, England
Mohammad S Haider, Deepak Prasad, Begusarai

Q How many Test centuries have been scored by Indian batsmen?

A A total of 139 comprising 129 centuries and 10 double centuries

Mohd Jawaid Jabbar, Sambalpur

Q Who were the rival captains in the first ever Ashes Test and who won the Test?

A W I Murdoch of Australia and A N Hornby of England Australia won the Test by seven runs

Shakeel Haider Begusarai

Q What is the Test bowling and batting record of Imran Khan?

A At the conclusion of the tour of England in 1982 Imran Khan's record was 40 Tests 65 innings eight times not out 1512 runs 123 as his highest score 27.05 average one century five half centuries four ducks 11 catches 10589 balls 358 maidens 4590 runs 179 wickets 25.64 average 12 times over five wickets twice over 10 wickets and played five Tests as a captain

M Martin Uddin Raja, Assam

Q Who was the first Test victim of Dennis Lillee of Australia? How did he capture it?

A Alan Knott of England in the sixth Test at Adelaide in 1970-71 Ian Redpath helped Lillee in getting the first victim

Magan Kumar Mehra Siliguri

Q How many Test cricketers in their first Tests scored a century in both innings?

A Lawrence Rowe of the West Indies who on his Test debut scored 214 and 100 not out against New Zealand at Kingston in 1971-72

Mrs K Parasramka Margherita

Q What is backward point in swing-ger outswinger and incoming ball in cricket?

A Backward point is a fielding position a little behind point An inswinger or an incoming ball is the delivery bowled by a fast bowler which is pitched outside or on the off stump and coming on to the middle or leg stump An outswinger is the delivery bowled by a fast bowler pitched outside the leg and going on to the middle or off stump

Supratim Chatterji, Agartala

Q When, where and against whom did Weekes Worrell and Walcott of West Indies make their debut in Tests?

A Weekes and Walcott made their Test debut for the West Indies in the first Test against England at Bridgetown in 1947-48 and Worrell in the second Test against England at Port of Spain in 1947-48

Abid Hussain Biswas, 24 Parganas

Q Who has hit the maximum numbers of sixes in an innings of a Test?

A Walter Hammond of England who hit 10 sixes in an innings in his knock of 336 not out against New Zealand at Auckland in 1932-33

Shanesh Manohar, Bangalore

Q Please let me know who was the first Indian to score a century in Tests?

A Lala Amarnath who made 118 in the first Test against England at Bombay in 1933-34

Dhirendra Kumar Mundichak, Bhagalpur, Manas Kumar Das, Golaghat

Q What is the Test batting record of S M Gavaskar?

A At the conclusion of the tour of England Gavaskar's batting record was 78 Tests 137 innings nine times not out 6792 runs 221 as highest score 53.06 as his average 24 centuries 30 half centuries and seven ducks

N Saroja Hyderabad

Q What is the address and the date of birth of Roger Binny?

A Roger Binny was born on 19 July, 1955. You may write to him care Karnataka State Cricket Association, KSCA Stadium, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore 560 001

S R. Gonda, Belgaur

Q How many Tests have C K Nayudu, Vizzy, I A K Pataudi, Lala Amarnath and Vijay Hazare played for India?

A C K Nayudu played seven Tests for India, Vizzy three, Iftikar Ali Khan Pataudi also three, Lala Amarnath seven and Vijay Hazare 30

Banasheedhara Sahoo, Asuran

Q What is the highest score by Sobers of the West Indies in a Test innings? Has any other batsman made more runs than him?

A The highest score by Sobers was an

unbeaten 365 and no other batsman has scored more runs than him in a Test innings

Wroolaban Sen, Calcutta.

Q What is the full name of S M H Kirmani?

A Syed Mujtaba Hussain Kirmani Sanjiv Chopra, Delhi

Q Which bowler has conceded the maximum runs in an innings of a Test?

A L O B Fleetwood-Smith of Australia conceded a maximum of 298 runs in 87 overs in the fifth Test against England at The Oval in 1948

R Narayan, V Kumar, V Muralidharan, G Krishnan, Salem

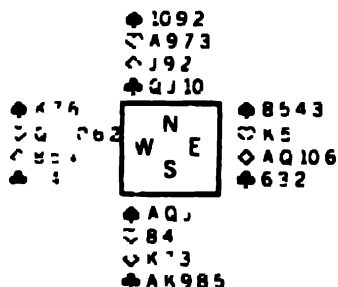
Q How many runs did Sir Donald Bradman score in the first day's play of the Leeds Test against England in 1930?

A Bradman scored exactly 309 runs

Bridge

By Boris Schapiro

These days there is such a proliferation of both systems and conventions that it seems a rare thing for the bidding to go the same way at three tables. However, that is just what happened on this week's hand. Mind you, the play differed — just as well, otherwise there would have been no story!



South dealt at love all, and this was the bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	pass	1 ♣	pass
2 NT	pass	3 NT	pass
pass	pass		

In spite of the heart bid on his left West decided to lead ♠ Q and declarer played low from the table to give East something of a problem. If he overtakes this declarer has got a second heart guard, while if he plays low he will simply be allowed to win the next heart lead and will have no more hearts. Either way the hearts would be shut out. So East took a good decision and switched the attack by overtaking and leading the Queen of diamonds. South won with the King but eventually he tried a spade finesse for his contract, and now a diamond lead through dummy's ♠ 9 gave East three more tricks. At the second table declarer was unwilling to risk a diamond switch and went up with ♠ A at trick one. Now the hearts were blocked and an immediate spade finesse drove out West's entry. Eventually South came to his ninth trick by tanking the diamonds himself.

It looks as though declarer should always get home, but the West at the third table created a neat diversion. He led a heart all right, but a low heart, and not the top of his sequence. Now if dummy's Ace is

played, East can afford to unblock with the King and the suit is comfortably established for the defence.

It is a point worth noting that the low card can work surprisingly well when dummy's suit is led. Of course it can cost a trick, but more often it seems to gain both by deception and sometimes by force. It is especially fun when you lead low from K Q J X X and declarer goes in with dummy's Ace from A 10 X X in an attempt to block the suit.

Last week's quiz. As South you dealt with ♠ 8, ♥ K Q J 10 7 4, ♦ K 3, ♣ K Q 10 4 and open one-heart. Your partner surprised you with an immediate 4 NT and you bid five-clubs to show no Aces. Then he bid 5 NT — asking for Kings. It looks all too easy to count up and respond six-spades, but remember that your partner's bid not only asks for Kings, but guarantees that the partnership holds all four Aces. You can do counting in a different kind — and respond 7 NT (Not hearts — humiliating if somebody could trump the opening lead).

This week's quiz. As South at love all you deal with ♠ A K J 10 4, ♥ A K 10 8 3, ♦ K 4, ♣ 2. What choice of opening bid would you make — two clubs, two-spades or one-spade?

Chess

By Peter G.

International master W A Fairhurst (1903-1982) was one of those rare men who manage to complement a distinguished professional career with successes at chess. Famous at home and abroad as a bridge designer, he found the time to become the dominant player in Scotland and to remain such for more than three decades. He won the national championship a record 11 times and led his country's team regularly in Olympiads, won an unofficial championship of the Commonwealth in 1951 and was British Champion in 1937. He achieved all this in a style that was meticulous and sound, just as his structural designs must have been. Here is a fine win of his against a great veteran, the man whose achievements in the British Championship have been surpassed only by Penrose.

White: William Fairhurst; **Black:** Henry Atkins. **Queen's Pawn, Grünfeld Defence (British Championship Blackpool, 1937)**

1 P - e4, K2 - K3, 2 P - e4, P - K3
3 K2 - K3, P - e4, 4 B - B4, P - B3
5 P - K3, B - K2, 6 P - K3, B - O
7 K2 - B3, P - K3, 8 B - K3, P - P
9 B x B, K2 - B4, 10 B - K3, K2 x B
11 P x B

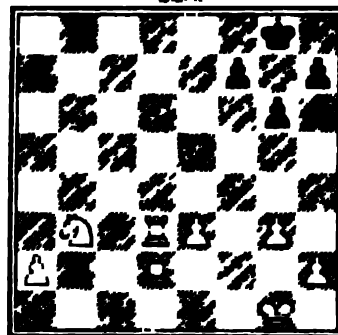
Thanks to Black's rather passive play White has come out of the opening with good long term prospects in the centre.

11 B - K2, 12 B - O, K2 - B2
13 B - K3, P - K4, 14 B - B2, K - R1
15 B - B1, P - B3, 16 P - B4, R - K1
17 K2 - B2, P - K3, 18 K2 - B4, B - K3
19 K2 - K1, B x K2, 20 B x R, P - K4
The change of activity in White whose Rishon's need due to...
21 P x P, K2 x P, 22 B - B2, Q - B4
23 P - K4, R - K3, 24 P x P, R x P
25 B - K3, K2 - B1, 26 B - K4, K2 - B2
27 R - B7, K2 - B4, 28 Q - K3, P - K4

It is hard to see why this weakening move was preferred to B - K x B.

29 Q - B4, B - K1, 30 R - K3, B x R
31 Q x R, B - K2, 32 Q x K2, R - K2
33 R x R, R x R, 34 Q x Pch, Resigned

Competition 6538 Solution next week
Black



White

Black to play and win. Grade 2 (easy).

Solution to 6538 (Portoch - Mchalevic, Nello, 1967)
(483/342p1/p3k1/3q1p2/7b1r62PPP/4P2P/6K1 - White to play) The Hungarian grandmaster destroyed the black King's defences by 50 B x P Q - Q7 (if 50 K x B then 51 Q - K3ch leads to mate) 51 R K3ch K x B 52 Q - K7ch K - R1 53 Q K3ch P R2 54 Q - K3ch K - R1 55 R K3ch and Black resigned.

Problem No 1205 Solution next week

A. Gassen (First Prize, Giornale di Genova 1935)
(18223/1P1R1r2/K2b4K2p1P2/p1p5r2B4pP6/62 - 0 white men, 0 black)

White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1204 (Speckmann) (7N/7P/6/8/483/6/8R/6K - mate in six.) 1 K1 B4ch (a) 1 R/R7 K17 2 Q - B3, K R7 3 Q - KR3mate, (b) 1 R(K18) K17 2 Q - K1ch R - K8, 3 Q - K17ch, R(K8) - K17, 4 Q - K4 and either 4 K - K8, 5 Q - K1 mate or 4 R x Pch, 5 K x R K - R7 6 Q x R

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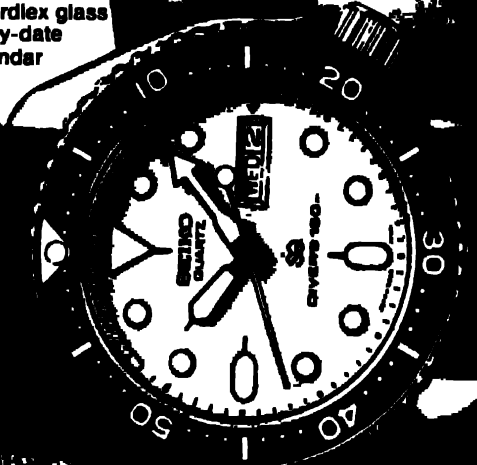


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Mohun Bagan erased the disgrace of their failure in this year's League Championship by setting an enviable record of winning the IFA Shield six times in a row. CHUNI GOSWAMI reviews the tournament.

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How are the veterans leading their lives today those who in their youth raised the standard of Indian football much higher than it is now? SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL investigates.



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Letters to the Editor

In retrospect

TO be very frank it was extremely sad on the part of the cricket lovers to hear of the result of the first ever official Test match between India and Sri Lanka. Had there been any other cricket playing country against Sri Lanka on that occasion, they would have scored the required 175 to win the match. One of the things that I could not understand was why Sunil Gavaskar changed the batting order so miserably and himself took a long rest in the pavilion.

BIJAYA PRADHAN,
Hatanumunda

Golden girl

THE performance of Rita Sen of Bengal at the Tital Games was in

deed praiseworthy. She became the first Indian woman athlete to achieve the herculean task of winning the 100 metres, 200 m and the 400 m race too.

SABUJ SEN,
Calcutta

A dubious record

SUNIL GAVASKAR seems to have set yet another world record, but this time a dubious one. He lost the toss for the ninth consecutive time in a Test—against Sri Lanka.

V K DASANI,
Calcutta

Final say

I SUGGEST the staging of a four Test series against Sri Lanka if Sunil Gavaskar is to equal Don Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries.

RAHUL KISHORE,
New Delhi

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COIMBATORE MOTOR RALLY

I HAVE a mechanic friend who is a sort of whizkid when it comes to repairing and riding motor cycles. For years he has been taking part in the Sholavaram races in Madras, the most popular motor race meet in the country. But lately his interest in participating in these races is diminishing, as he confided in me.

Recently he said "The thing that gets me up now is the motor rallies. These rallies are far more interesting than ordinary motor races in that they are more challenging, certainly more tough and there is a sense of adventure and fulfilment concerning the rally which you do not have when racing. In short motor racing to use racing parlance is for sprinters, while the rally is for the stayers, men who can stay on the long, arduous course."

There are a lot of motor racing aficionados who would agree with my mechanic friend. Evidence of this was seen in this year's Coimbatore Rally. That the rally was a spontaneous success no one will deny. The first and foremost reason was the number of participants. There were 46 cars and 64 two-wheelers and among them were well known names in the action world of motor rallying. The majority of the participants were from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Kerala but there were entries too from faroff cities like Calcutta and Bombay.

Out of quantity comes quality and this rally certainly had a unique quality about it. For one thing, the distance—2200 kilometres for cars and 1600 kilometres for two-wheelers was one of the longest organised in this country.

The vehicles, the competitors and the attire worn by them were something to be seen to be believed. Particularly eye-catching were the men in the two-wheelers. More open to the elements, they were all well protected against rain or shine, accident or over exposure. One indeed found it almost incredible that they donned everything, overalls, jackets, helmets, goggles, boots and full sleeves for the entire journey. It must have been suffocating, but nothing seemed to bother the adventurous spirit of these men and the handful of ladies who took part. In fact, there were three in all, one in the two-wheelers and two in the car event.

A novel scheme was the insurance coverage for all the 300 odd participants. The coverage was for Rs 50,000 by the United India Insurance Co. Ltd. It was the first time in India that the competitors were covered under this scheme.

Many vehicles, being sponsored, wore an artistic look. All sorts of names and in all sorts of styles were painted on the cars or two-wheelers. A most interesting fact was that some of the cars gave the blood group of the drivers against their names. In case of a serious accident, this information would no doubt be useful.

The objective of such an event was manifold. First to encourage and popularise auto rallies. Secondly, to inculcate a sense of adventure and action amongst the youth of the country. Thirdly, it gave an opportunity for users to identify the best make of Indian manufactured four-wheelers and two-wheelers. Fourthly, it was a test

of the manufacturers' products, machines and spares. Frequent rallies will help them to improve their products for the benefit of the users.

One can almost say for sure that the rally did achieve all its objectives. The event came to a rousing conclusion on October 6 at Coimbatore with the awards distribution ceremony presided over by Mr S. Narayanan, district manager (south), ITC. Vivek Chandok of Madras won the first prize of Rs 25,000 by claiming the event for four-wheelers. Driving a Fiat, he had only 120 penalty points and finished far ahead of the second-placed Deepak Patel of Coimbatore who incurred 240 penalty points. Patel also drove Premier. Premier did itself proud when nine of their cars finished in the first ten. Third prize went to Siraj Afther Ali of Mysore who incurred 260 penalty points and fourth was Bopanna of Coorg, with 280 penalty points. Ali won Rs 7500 while Bopanna took home Rs 5000.

P. S. Selvaraj and Sudhanthiraj of Coimbatore finished on top in the two-wheeler event. They incurred 1040 penalty points and took the first prize of Rs 15,000. Just behind in second place with 1050 penalty points were Krishnamurthy and Yethiraj of Mysore, who were richer by Rs 9,000. In third place were Gautham Kedham and N. Mohan of Coimbatore. They had 1120 penalty points and took home Rs 6,000. With 1250 penalty points, Balamurali Krishnan and K. G. Chakrapani took fourth place and Rs 4,000. Additional prizes were also given in both the events for best performances in each of the sectors. These prizes came to Rs 9000 in each event.

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KEEPING TRACK

ALL IN THE GAME

FUN RUN

Running with the pack

It has affected London even more than a plague. Unbelievable. 27,570 competitors for a race. Well, that's just it. In four days from now Hyde Park will play host to the spectacle as the Fun Run gets underway. There are separate events for boys and girls under ten and even for men well past their century. The group which has shown the most enthusiasm (everyone really has) is the one which comprises men between 41 and 49. The Running Forties they've been called and the starter is likely to be drowned by the sound of hundreds of digital watches being started.

This year a unique event for the disabled has been included—a wheelchair event. After competing in separate groups in races which range from 1¹/₂ to 2¹/₂ miles, all the runners will take part in the Mass Jog. One wonders whether the last of the participants will get over the start line before the leaders complete the course? That's not the only question which has to be answered. Will Marjorie Sussens the oldest entrant, only two years from her eightieth birthday, complete the course? One thing is sure. Everyone wins the race! At least they think they do.

RACY ROSBERG

Champion of champions

THE odds-on favourite Keke Rosberg won the formula one world drivers' championship in splendid style, driving a race immaculate for its concentra-

tion from start to finish.

The battle between Rosberg and John Watson, the only person who could even be considered as a contender for the championship, became yet another race which Watson can pack up in his bag of forlorn struggles.

There was an alarming high number of drop outs, two of whom were René Arnoux, an early leader who had electrical problems and Mario Andretti who spun with a broken suspension. As a result Rosberg knew even at the halfway point that all he had to do was to finish the race. 'The last ten laps were long, very long,' said Rosberg, now the new world champion.

TENNIS AT THE OLYMPICS

McEnroe and Connors for Olympics

WHAT would you do if the person who came up and told you that McEnroe, Connors, Borg, Lendl and company would be competing in the 1988 Olympic Games? You'd dismiss him as a lunatic. But, hold your horses.



The International Olympic Committee originally planned to hold tennis as a demonstration game at the Los Angeles Games in 1984 in view of including it at the 1988 Games. But now the IOC are giving serious thought to the idea of including tennis at the Olympics. The problem that has arisen regards the eligibility of the players. The International Tennis Federation suggested that amateurs along with those professionals who have played Davis Cup should be allowed to take part. The ITF ruling has been accepted by the IOC President Juan Samaranch who is reported to have started encouraging committee members to support the idea. Would the top pros play for peanuts? There are many top officials of the Association of Tennis Professionals—one of whom is Arthur Ashe—who feel that the players would compete for the honour and glory. Connors—Wimbledon and Olympic champion. Sounds good.

SAVIOUR SACKED

Russian coach resigns

HE was hailed the saviour of Soviet football but this year's World Cup finals in Spain dealt a severe blow to Konstantin Beskov's popularity and ambitions. Following a barrage of criticism in the Soviet Press over his handling of the squad in Spain, Mr Beskov decided to step down as coach of the national side. Instead he will now concentrate his energies on managing Moscow Spartak.

At the same time Mr Beskov hit back at the critics when he said, 'Those who criticise me believe that what they say is justified, but soccer critics

know football only from outside. They don't know what goes on in the back room.' Perhaps the grey-haired Russian is right.

RACE TO REMEMBER

Shoemaker versus Piggott

THE meeting place—Ascot. Horse racing, of course! But this time it was for a worthy cause. The climax of the programme which was sponsored by Long John Scotch Whisky was a skilfully arranged match. The two opponents scarcely need any introduction. Lester Piggott ten times Britain's champion jockey and the American Knight (or should one say king) of the pigskin Willie Shoemaker. Both men are still going strong. Piggott at 46 and Shoemaker at 50, in a sport where people of their age are way past their best.

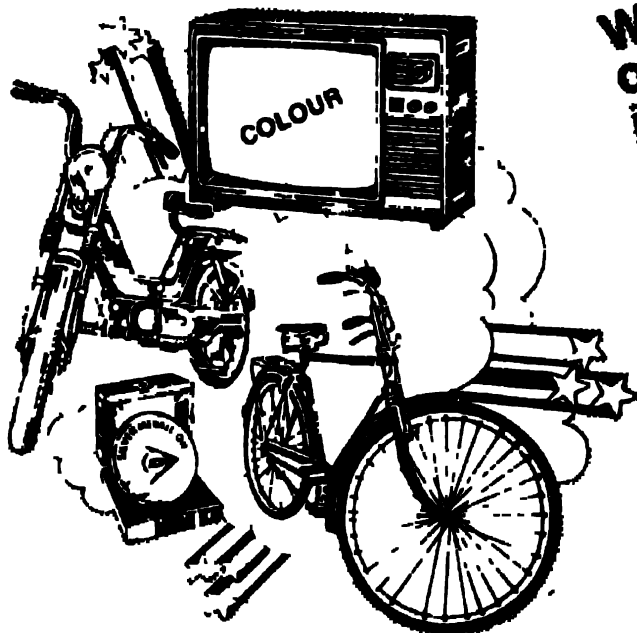
Back to Ascot, where it was decided by lots that the English jockey would ride the three-year-old Spanish Pool while the American would be astride Prince's Gate, a five-year-old. Both the horses were handicapped so that they would dead heat at the end of the one-mile event. And the stage was set—Piggott against Shoemaker on horses which at least from theory were supposed to finish together.

The match itself was rather a tame affair with Prince's Gate (Shoemaker up) finishing a clear 1¹/₂ lengths ahead of Piggott on Spanish Pool. Shoemaker made it a start to finish affair with Piggott playing the role—typical of British jockeys—of a 'waiter'. There was no response from the odds-on favourite Spanish Pool just below the distance and Shoemaker then rode on with hands and heels to bring a touch of magic to an otherwise damp day at Ascot.

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The Federation has no guts

G. Jagannath, former Indian table tennis international himself, points out the ills of the sport in the country

IT is indeed very disheartening to note that of late the affairs of the Table Tennis Federation of India, the apex body of Table Tennis activity, has sunk to its lowest ebb on all fronts. This has been particularly noticed in spheres like selection of Indian contingents and discipline amongst players and officials concerned. In spite of the fact that the selection committee comprises ex-national champions and Indian internationals, it is clearly seen that there is no clear cut policy or set pattern while selecting Indian teams for competitions abroad for the past two years. But is it proper to throw the entire blame on the selection committee alone, when it is reliably learnt that a high ranking Federation official often interferes with the selection committee's recommendations to suit his whims and fancies.

To start with, the Indian national champion V. Chandrasekhar was dropped from the Indian squad for the first Pyongyang International Table Tennis Championships in 1981. The reason given was that he had finished fifth in the selection trials conducted at Patiala prior to the championships. But in the same league, Sujay Ghorpade, who finished sixth and Kamlesh Mehta, who finished seventh were selected to represent India. In the same selection trials Manmeet Singh, who after playing only a few matches, sprained his ankle. The remaining five or six matches which he did not play at all were awarded in Manmeet's favour as a 2-0 victory by the North Korean coach Pak U' Gill, and finally he was given the second rank in the overall selection trials. This clearly shows that different policies are adopted for different players while selecting the Indian team.

Again, similar selection trials were held at Patiala to select the Indian team for the Asian Union Table Tennis Championships to be held at Jakarta. Recently in this, P. Hari of Tamil Nadu finished second and yet could not find a place in the five member squad for the Jakarta championships.

A couple of the selection committee members were totally ignorant of Sujay Ghorpade (National junior champion) leaving for China for training during May 1982 for a period of three months. No selection committee member will dispute Sujay's being selected. But to be ignored in the selection committee deliberations is not constitutional.

Again, a six-member Indian team went to Japan for the Tokyo Open

Table Tennis Championships from 12 to 14 March 1982. Here again, some of the selection committee members were in the dark about the team's selection and not were they asked to give their composition of the team.

In view of the Asian at Delhi the Government grant was obtained to send our teams to the second Pyongyang International Table Tennis Tournament followed by training in North Korea. Japan and an International Invitation Tournament at Seoul and another Invitation Tournament in Japan. The men and women's teams were selected at Ajmer on 19 June, 1982 by the selection committee. Rita Jain who was only a stand by, made the trip to North Korea in spite of the fact that none of the four selected women players opted out. Subsequently, Rita went to Japan to play 'test' matches, to the Seoul International Tournament and again to play in the Japan International Tournament like a regular team member when in fact she was not even considered as a stand by for any of the above tournaments. On the contrary, Lakshmi Karanth who was a stand by for the Japan tour, immediately after the Pyongyang tournament was sent back to India all alone and Rita was retained for subsequent tours.

Now coming to the discipline among the players, we have the case of Manmeet Singh who tried to cut his fingers with a glass in a fit of emotion after losing his second round match to R. Hari of Tamil Nadu. This was in the National Championships held at Palghat in December, 1981. The very same evening he left for Delhi without playing his men's doubles match. Manmeet was selected in the Indian squad for the Pyongyang International Tournament followed by a month's training in North Korea. He did not go to North Korea on medical grounds but within a week's time he was fit enough to play an Open Tournament in Bombay, beating Manjit Dua in the finals.

Again, much to the amusement of everyone, Manmeet after losing to R. Hari of Tamil Nadu in the quarter-final league of the West Zone left Ahmedabad immediately on medical grounds without playing his remaining matches. But a week later, he was fit enough to be at Seoul representing India.

These are just few examples to show that it is the player dictating terms to the supreme body, choosing where and when he wants to play

and not the selectors. And the Federation is a silent spectator without any guts to take disciplinary action in spite of the fact that majority of the selection committee members, wanted Manmeet to be dropped from the Indian squad. Again, Manmeet hit the headlines by reporting late for his team matches during the recent Trial Games and wanted his name to be included which was turned down by the Chief Referee. He left the place in a huff and later gave a letter that he should not be considered for the Asian and that he was not going to take any more part in the Trial Games. The very next day he tendered an unconditional apology and played his singles matches which he lost in the semi-finals to Kamlesh Mehta. The Federation secretary instead of taking a stern action gave a statement in the Press stating that Manmeet was young and immature and was the best bet for the Asian. And that when the team itself has not been finalised by the selection committee and that Manmeet is not even ranked within the first ten in India! Such unwarranted statements by responsible officials of the Federation makes it clear to all concerned that Manmeet Singh is already selected in the Indian squad in spite of all his short comings!

The TFI has selected coaches like Nihal Singh and Chawat for Nepal (Pentagonal) and the Seoul International Open Table Tennis Tournaments in 1981 and 1982 respectively. The above mentioned coaches have never played table tennis even at their State level and selecting such persons as official coaches for stalwarts like Manjit Chandrasekhar, Kamlesh, Indu Puri, Shailaja and others is an insult to their status and to senior NIS coaches like ex-National champions and internationals with wide range of experience. It may be true that there are many technical lacunae in sponsoring coaches attached to the NIS like Thiruvengadam, Bhandari and other senior internationals like Khodari, Chachad, and Kasim, in which case it is much better to nominate one of the senior most members of the squad as an advisor to the players. That is much better than having coaches like Nihal Singh and Chawat, who have absolutely no knowledge about international competitions. It also causes an amount of tension amongst the players who know probably that the coaches have earned their berth into the team by paying the passage fare.

As told to PARTAB RAMACHANDR

Australia in a spin

Abdul Qadir did it again. This time he finished with eleven wickets in the Faisalabad Test as Aussie after Aussie had no clue where to hit. **KHALID MAHMOOD** takes in Pakistan's return among the topfliers and concludes that India will have a trying time

AUSTRALIA, headed for their worst overseas tour in years, went down and, baring Greg Ritchie, without semblance of a fight as Pakistan improved on their margin record and won the Faisalabad Test by an innings and three runs. With Pakistan already two Tests up and one to go, the third game can only be looked forward to for academic interest and reasons of personal glory. And there could be no better ending to the game than Qadir's taking eleven wickets. He had captured five in the second innings of the first Test—and to think that he is a leg spinner. Like old times again.

Pakistan began their advent on the opening day and looked in comfortable touch. Their lead in the series showed no signs of being restored to parity and it was largely the work of Pakistan's front liners who wore the Australian attack early and kept themselves reconciled to the pegging. Three wickets down for 232, in keeping with Faisalabad's tradition for inert wickets, seemed decent enough and the home side had trekked in the right direction.

For even if the score looked moderate enough for a full day's play then there were consolations thrown in as well, not forgetting the century partnership put up by Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar. That Mohsin is mature enough of late to be etched in as one of the world's more enterprising of batsmen is not to be doubted and the fact that Mudassar is a bat weighted heavily in utility a fact only the foolish would oppose. But for some time their working in tandem had always been an Imran dream. Quite like the fashions in other countries. A ceaseless switching of partners for Gavaskar in India, combinations galore in Blighty and now this.

Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar saw out the whole morning in apparently no difficulty on a pitch that reminded more of hay, broken bowling hearts and flooded score boards. The former played his shots

with much abandon, though not always exceeding himself. A couple of swishes did edge but that extra Mohsin power beat Hughes' scheming to it.

Mudassar, the safer foil, this time went past his normally advancing partner. He got the best out of Sleep's untidy breaks, some of them even full tosses and till even an hour after lunch they were undivided. Those figure conscious in the Press Box started humming about it being the first time in half a decade that two of Pakistan had registered a century partnership to begin the innings with.

The fairy tale ended when Mohsin Khan with 76 ventured into a hook, found the edge and Marsh behind gambolled around like a child. Pakistan were then at 123 and that ought to have thrust the reins back into the hands of Mansoor and Mudassar. On other occasions, the score might have come off in slower bursts. This time neither could have waited. Mansoor made good the threadbare Aussie bowling while Mudassar too began to opt more for aggression than safety first batsmanship. But finally, he paid for it. Having taken in Border's coming on, he subsequently tried to clear the top off him, got it a trifle early, made it blon agonisingly in the air before it cushioned out in the hands of Hughes skuting mid on.

At 181 with eight men yet to fall, the issue seemed safe in Pakistan's hands but 20 runs later, Miandad was to fall. Victim of a ball kept back by Lawson, Miandad on drove but only to be taken by Laird at mid wicket.

Temporarily, Australia couldn't have asked for the better. With tea and biscuits already past, Miandad could have worked his way out of a comparatively lean period.

But the end effect was still about the same in Pakistan's favour. Mansoor Akhtar threw the reins behind him while Zaheer showed signs of avenging his lapse of the first Test.

With the younger man on 44 and Zaheer on 19, Pakistan looked set for a driving-the ball home exercise the next day. And there wasn't really much evidence to suggest that they wouldn't. Australian bowlers had done little all through the three sessions. Thomson looked lacking in speed and naked venom, Sleep yearned for spells for an honest delivery that even bounced right and Bright, though not actually maltreated, hunted without any success. And you could guess what thought must have remained uppermost in Hughes' mind at the team meeting that evening over dinner. "If only I had Yardley." But the chopper blade already seemed ready for Australia's neck.

THE steamrolling continued on the second day. Pakistan resumed and the two overnight vigilance officers ensured that their chances of victory were kept beyond Australia's reach. And as the day bore on there were many who had begun to wonder where the next wicket was going to come from. For Akhtar was tipped to be the less likely man to carry the fight on for so long but on this day of steaming slaughter he realised his life's ambition and, what's more, his potential. His cutting and driving on occasions would have filled any of Ripley's editions and as long as Zaheer was 22 yards away you knew that Akhtar was being egged on. Minds went back to Idghaston, when they had been batting, and Akhtar had got his Test fiftv. The thought comes back of Zaheer walking down the pitch and putting a hand on his head. As it meaning "I pass it all to thee son." And on this second day of batting brutality I saw Zaheer's glasses shielding the moist pride. Or, just perhaps.

And while Mansoor Akhtar was bent on silencing all those in the Press Box, who had said that his selection for England had been one extravagance, Zaheer it was from the other end reducing the Aussies to a species of oblivion. Seldom have I seen him actually going after the bowling with such gusto. And they say that age mellow. Zaheer hit 17 boundaries and three sixes—food for that theory!

Mansoor Akhtar finished with his bazookery at a personal mark of 111 after adding 155 with his more renowned partner while Zaheer was more suprisingly out at 126, bowled Sleep. Later in the day when Hughes must have been praying for a Lilee and a Greg Chappell, Haroon Rashid stencilled his place deeper into the Pakistani side and proved right the notion that he was a better local batsman than one when pitched outside the country. The arthwart rays of the evening had Pakistan at an unreachable 501 for six. Lawson

had ended his strivings of the day with four wickets and Bright had yielded 107 in 41 overs with no wicket in exchange. Worse than that, as far as the runs given away were concerned, was Sleep. He had figures to turn one into an insomniac. One for 159 runs, if you please.

PAKISTAN did it on the third day. Just when most at the ground had begun to imagine that the match looked like heading towards a dead-duck draw Qadir struck.

By the evening of the third day he had the Aussies reduced to 141 for eight wickets, Qadir having personally accounted for half of them. Originally it was thought that the Aussies would be vulnerable to off spin, a stand that was not entirely proved in the first Test. And on this occasion, brought on early in to the firing line, he repaid the confidence by trapping Laird for eight with the score at 20. And the next Australian wicket ought to have fallen not long after, but Wood and Dyson entrenched themselves. At one stage even a draw seemed the most logical outcome. Wood had Imran at bay for some time and, while Paki fielders were more bothered changing their ends for the varying stances, the bowlers toiled. Until Qasim had Dyson in trouble for one ball, it popped and Mudassar from silly point had clutched even before it had left the bat. He had made 23.

Fourteen runs later, Mudassar was to have his moment of glory. He might never quite succeed to summon the balmy days of life spent at Lord's and Leeds but here he demonstrated how much it means to chip in with a wicket here and there. For he had Wood caught by Bari for a deserved 49. The breakthrough was made.

But those dismissals should not have been the excuse for the subsequent disaster. Hughes soon was to jump out at Qadir as if going down the walk to a lady. He lashed out, only to sky it in the air for Imran to hold and then it was Border to swing blindly outside the off stump. Most batsmen would never have played it but Border did, edged and Miandad had clutched hard to give Imran his first wicket of the innings.

Even 123 for four did not look bad enough. But in another few minutes Australia had slipped deeper into the mire. Peter Sleep was declared leg before the following ball and Abdul Qadir completed the rout by clean bowling Rod Marsh and then having Bright taken up by Haroon, both for nought. Australia managed to see out the evening at 141 for eight wickets and some journalists at the ground keeping their eyes set for a day of rest, were of one mind to check out of the hotel by the end of the fourth day. Australia never looked like having the spunk to meet the devil in the face and carrying on

the fight anything beyond the expected limit.

NEXT MORNING, Pakistan's first innings ran out of oxygen. For most of the time Greg Ritchie held the remainder of the order held together but on 167 Haroon Rashid gave proof to the opinion that the England tour must have done some good for him. Reminding one of Gattling when he had run out Miandad at Edgbaston, Rashid did a repeat at the expense of the young Ritchie. The batsman played Qasim and then almost tripped over and, while his legs were still straying, Haroon had thrown underhanded and the balls had flown.

A few balls later in the same over, with a run added to the score, Lawson swiped but was taken by a vigilant Zaheer at mid off. The light went out in Australia's dressing room almost immediately.

Asked to follow on, the visitors never really showed any signs of making a move towards an improvement. They ended the fourth evening—still lucky to be there—with 176 runs on the board with four men in the upper half of the order gone. Laird and Dyson had added 73 for the opening wicket before the latter failed to read one too well, swung and ended up putting one into Qasim's hands—off Qadir, of course. Dyson, apart from the manner of the dismissal, had every reason to be quite chuffed with himself. He had got himself 43 when every one of his colleagues was showing signs of making for the pavilion.

Again, like the happenings of the first innings, Australia looked on the way to saving the match. Nobody could have argued with the score having gone past 100 and only one wicket having fallen. But soon Laird was to make a hash of it. He muffed it in the flight while Qadir teased and was making a move back quite displeased with himself for 60. The score was 125 for two—the danger signals for Australia.

And to mount Australia's frustration Hughes went himself, unable to read Qadir's googly at 133 and a mere 29 runs later, the Aussies were to lose Border. He had mooched around for 31 till then, workmanlike runs, before he, too, succumbed to Qadir and being snapped up at short leg.

By the end of the day the Pakistani cricket authorities couldn't have but congratulated themselves for having made the right choice as far as choosing the country to play their own went. Had they lost, or even barely escaped, the mood for the series against India could never have been summoned. Now they—even Imran Khan included—are turning up their sleeves. I wonder if that

means anything. Must be

AUSTRALIA ran out of steam on the last day. The question of victory had by then been absolutely removed from the reckoning and very few journalists were thinking of laying their odds for a draw. Chances of the game going Australia's way and the series being squared were not taken into the account at all. And the possibility that Australia would at least make a fight of it looked even more remote when Sleep swept Qadir, skied to deep square leg and was taken there. The two batsmen had added 56 runs and by now smiles had come back on faces, supporters of Abdul Qadir and supporters of Pakistani cricket.

Australia went in for the sand wicket at 252 with half the side carved out—all by Qadir—but Ritchie was still there. His batting was never right out from the flashing bat school and he brought this out in essence never better than on the last day. At times he looked laborious, trudging along. But Australia couldn't wanted anything better as long as Ritchie, only in his second Test, was not showing intentions of leaving. In fact, he never did. He stayed around till the end of the day weathering all the Pakistanis could tease him with. And when the sun had long been past the zenith he was raising his bat for the hundred. One senses that the last has not been heard of Ritchie. Let this series be over and done with and you bet that Willis is going to go into conclave in Australia time and again this winter on just how to curb him.

Graeme Wood should have come much earlier but having caught the Pakistan tummy bug he was shifted later in the order. Normally, he would have allowed himself a comfortable latitude but now, with Australia in the cooker, he was content to play the waiting game. He was successful in seeing out the new ball, reaping from experience of years behind him.

Wood went soon after lunch and Marsh filled the breach. With only 43 runs separating Australia and the chances of making Pakistan batting again, it looked very likely that Marsh and Ritchie would pull it off. But Marsh ran himself out for only eight, Bright was rid off for no addition and Lawson could do no better.

When the last pair came together 23 were still needed and by some careful batting Thomson and the enduring Ritchie saw out a score of runs exactly. But Thomson it was who gave the fight away. He was beaten in flight, stumped by Bari and Imran Khan had won his third Test for Pakistan in four Tests. Ominous signs for India, due to land from across the border sometime in November.

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

PETER JORDAN reports

WHICH city in the world is known as the Windy City? Chicago. That is not what you would answer if you were in Brisbane on September 20 at the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium watching the opening ceremony of the XII Commonwealth Games. Even the gum trees here—normally a big attraction for the tourist's eye—had to take a back seat as southwesterly winds sometimes reaching speeds of nearly 30 kmph whistled through as the 45 teams marched past. There was much talk about some nations boycotting the Games because of the usual South African problem but the Chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation Sir Alexander Ross played his cards well and at the

end no nations backed out.

Red, white and blue balloons went up before zero hour. Team flag bearers looked more like parachutists as they held on grimly to their respective banners. And to crown it all the slouch hats of the Aussie soldiers were blown off as Prince Philip inspected the men in their well starched uniforms. The first day of the Games was for all practical purposes winded. Nevertheless, it was a happy start as nearly half a lakh of people packed the stadium to watch the opening ceremony of what is popularly known as the friendly games.

There were cheers for all but the latest of all came for the two-man team from the Falkland Islands. The

dreadful days on the Hermes and the Invincible were forgotten as Raelle Boyle, one of the most successful ever Australian athletes, ran around the stadium carrying a message from Queen Elizabeth II. Altogether 30 runners had carried the baton a relay before it reached the start.

Formalities over, Prince Philip declared the Games open. For the few minutes thousands of photographers were in the limelight as they flew into sunny skies with the crack of the gun salute booming in the background.

Tomorrow there would be as fantastic as the competition. For Coe, Overi and Pono who had been edged out because of time problems got down to serious business with



The team from India march into the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium during the opening ceremony of the XII Commonwealth Games.

quest for golds, silvers, bronzes and what is most important —glory

Swimming was the glamour event on the first day at Brisbane, with the English girl June Croft winning the first swimming gold in style. Croft returned a time of 56.97 seconds in the 100 metres freestyle to chip about half a second from the old record. However Croft's timing is still quite some bit behind GDR's Barbara Krause's effort at the Moscow Olympics. The hosts with thousands of waving supporters behind them knocked almost three seconds off from the mark set by the Canadians at Edmonton in winning the prestigious men's 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay. The overconfident Canadians were pushed back into third place as Ireland bagged the silver.

It was a disastrous day for the Indians in the swimming pool as not only did none of them qualify for the finals but they had to be content with the most minor of minor places in the heats. Anita Sood was the only one who turned in at least a semblance of a race, saving when she came sixth in the heats for the 100 metres freestyle event. However, this was a good opportunity for the winners to know what is in store for them at the forthcoming Asiad and swimming coach Bernd Johnke realised that the Indians were out of the pool.

The first event of the Games was the two kilometres team trial in rowing and it was in the fitness of rowers that England won the gold medal. Scotland also opened their tally with a win in the team air rifle event. India were also among the medalists. Supathy and Kombiah won a medal each in weightlifting. Supathy competing in the 52.56 kg category in his two lifts in the snatch and one jerks lifted a total of 227.5 kgs which was only second to England. Geoffrey Lewis effort. There was also occasion to open more stubborn the Australian term for cans of beer in the Indian dressing room when Gurunathan Kombiah with a perfect total of 200 kg in the 52 kg class won the silver medal behind the Australian Nick Voukelatos who bagged the gold.

Indian exponents of the shuttle game got off to a quiet start in the badminton events when they beat Scotland by three games to two. The last four matches were shared after which Le Roy D'Sa and Kanwal Thakur Singh clinched the issue in the mixed doubles.

The Indians seeded four in the team event were shocked by the Australian badminton team when they could only salvage a match against the Aussies. Syed Modi the national champion and also seeded fourth in the individual event at the Commonwealth Games was unexpectedly beaten by the Australian teenager Darren McDonald. In another upset on the day Malaysia

who were seeded second went down to New Zealand. England and Canada the other seeded teams did not have such problems as they registered white wash wins over Scotland and Zimbabwe respectively.

As tourists got used to the pie and sauce easily available at every street-side corner the Commonwealth Games entered its second day. It was very much the day for the kangaroos with the Aussie aqua kings and queens in great form. Tracy Wickham the Australians aqua angel who had earlier had the singular privilege of taking the oath on behalf of all the participants coasted to an easy victory in the women's 800 metres freestyle. England's Jackie Wilmott showed early signs of making this race into an interesting 'War of the W's'. But the nineteen year old Australian was never really pushed

as she came within four seconds of her world record while Wilmott finished a poor third. The Canadians did have some say in the matter when they picked up medals in the women's 200 metres breaststroke through Anne Ottenbrite and of course, the great performance of Alex Baumann who swam to an easy victory in the men's 4 x 100 metre individual medley. This must surely rank as one of the most gruelling races and Baumann not only won this but showed promise of better things to come. On the whole it was a good day for the Indians, two silver medals is not bad going after all. 'Advance Australia' was played very often and the predominantly blue Australian flag fluttered in glory as their athletes repeatedly mounted the victory stand. However the only sad part for the Australians was



SUNSHINE SMILE Judy Livermore Commonwealth and British pushed into second place by Glynnis Nunn this year at B

when they were disqualified in the 4x100 metres relay for women because their third swimmer took off before the previous swimmer had touched. The Canadians who came in second were also disqualified for the same reason and eventually England were awarded the gold.

For India it was a day of mixed fortunes. M. Tamil Selvan added to his Commonwealth silver collection when he was placed second in the 60 kg category with a total lift of 245 kg. Selvan had earlier won a silver at the Edmonton Games. Dean Willey the winner of this category established a new Games mark when he lifted a total of 267.5 kg. India's other medal on this day which was one bathed with brilliant sunshine, was in the team competition for the rapid fire pistol event. Sharad Chauhan and R. K. An did the needful to place after Australia and Scotland.

Marian Xavier the Indian pugilist registered a victory against fancied Gary Duff of Northern Ireland but this victory was all the Indians got on the this day besides the other medals. The badminton team disappointed. After registering victor-

ies against Northern Ireland and Kenya the Indians were swamped by the English who were the top seeds in the team event. With this loss India bowed out of the team event, not living upto expectations.

The Indian swimmers were once again completely out of their depth although the women managed to qualify for the 4x100 metres final. The quartet comprising Geeta Anand, Persis Madan, Anita Sood and Gisele Barocha finished fifth in the final which was won by the English team.

THERE was a lot in store on Day 3 at Brisbane. Without being extended the English badminton team won the gold with a clear victory over the Canadians. The English were never really stretched in the whole tournament and came out easy winners. But the two people who were in the limelight on this day were the Tanzanian long-distance runner Gidemias Shahanga and the golden girl of the Commonwealth swimming pool Lisa Curry.

The ever smiling popular swimmer from Queensland has already put

two golds and a bronze into her bag—remember she was in the relay team that was disqualified—and must surely rank as one of the heroines of the meet. The glamour event of the swimming is always the mens 100 metres freestyle. This event was won by the 20-year old Neil Brooks of Australia, while the second and third swimmers were also Australians. Seventeen-year old Greg Fasala and Mike Delaney Brooks returned a time of 51.14 seconds which is still more or less a second away from the Olympiad mark of Jim Montgomery. The youngster waved a pair of souvenir swimming trunks as Prince Philip presented him with his gold medal. It was another bad day for Canada as England's Philip Hubble struck gold in the 200 metres butterfly for men.

Africans were in the limelight on the first day of the athletics events, but perhaps that was only to be expected. Shahanga was followed by Tanzanian Zakaria Barie in the 10,000 metres. England's Julian Goater led the field for most of the way at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium but had no answer to the late burst of the Tanzanian duo.

Veteran Indian welterweight pugilist Chenanda Machiah was in ruthless form as he knocked out his aggressive opponent from Ghana Amartei Amartove to move into the second round of the 67 kg class. The Ghanaian, whose head hit the canvas, took as long as two minutes to recover from the tremendous left hook that the Indian delivered. This was the only note of joy for the Indians as their weightlifters and shooters met with little luck.

HE is the Olympic champion. He is the European champion. And now to prove his ability beyond doubt Daley Thompson also won the decathlon athlete who have been cheered on by a partisan home crowd. Today was quite different. Thousands of Aussies burst into thunderous applause as the 24 year old British decathlete collected his medal.

Kathy Bald a typist from Ottawa proved that she was as proficient in the water as she is on the keys when she registered a shock win in the womens 100 metres breast stroke.

The Indians left their debacle in the team events behind them and instead put up a much better show in the individual events. Chenanda Machiah unleashed an array of jabs to outlast Leonidas of Tanzania. On the badminton court Pradeep Gandhe and D'sa also registered victories in the first round of the doubles events. With this the first five days of the Games are over and even the mascot—a giant mechanical kangaroo named Matilda—had something to offer. She winked much to the delight of all at the QE II stadium. Who knows Matilda might exult? Another record and probably a waltz!



Daley Thompson

Will Bula have to switch to Maharashtra?

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL

YET another sports genius from Chittagong, the old port city of East Bengal (now Bangladesh)

First we had Dibyendu Barua, the chess wonderboy who is now setting his sights on being the first Indian Grandmaster after defeating the ex-world champion Victor Korchnoi. And now we have Bula Chaudhuri, the tiny swimming star of 13 who created a sensation in the recently concluded Swimming Nationals held in Delhi along with the Tital Games.

But the questions haunting every mind today are—will she have to leave her home State to get better training opportunities in order to improve her skills? Will Bengal be able to nurture this promising child swimmer and help her to proceed further up the ladder of success?

Perhaps not. At least that is the impression that this writer got after talking to Bula and her parents at their residence at Hind Motor, a small suburban township, about an hour's drive northward from the heart of the city of Calcutta.

A medium sized two storied building which Bula's father bought a few years back from a relative who left the house because of some bereave-

ments in the family flanked by a few shanties and a small pond, is where they stay. The Chaudhuri family make you feel very welcome if you would like to have a short chat with Bula.

Sitting in a windy drawing room upstairs, containing a sofa cum bed, a few chairs and a centre table, the first question that this writer thought fit to ask was whether Bula who was then busy somewhere else had completely recovered from her illness that prevented her from going to Brisbane to take part in the Commonwealth Games.

'Yes, she is fully fit now,' replied Mrs Bakul Chaudhuri, Bula's mother. 'But she is still making a lot of fuss over taking food. In fact she always does that whether she is ill or fully fit. It is something that keeps me worried about her well being whenever she is out of my sight. You know how important it is for an athlete to have meals on time and in proper quantities. Now she is very eager to go to Patiala as soon as possible. I'm afraid that she might get into trouble once again if she does not give up her bad eating habits. She has to be more careful

about her health."

At this point Bula appeared in the doorway—short rather frail but full of life. For some time she started at the tape recorder and then asked with a surprised look "Is everything being recorded here? Are you from the radio station? When will it be broadcast? Three questions came in rapid succession while she leaned over the centre table to have a closer look at the machine.

After her questions had been answered she said 'I began to feel unwell on September 18 when I was going from the swimming pool to the Game's Village. By the evening my temperature rose to 104 degrees.

"Oh it was a harrowing experience," interrupted Bula's mother. 'I was supposed to come back to Calcutta the same evening with the Bengal team. I was one of the team managers. But I was in two minds when her symptoms seemed to take a turn for the worse. I was hesitant about staying back lest people should say that despite being an official I had broken the rules just because my own daughter had fallen ill.

"Some officials gave me the assu-



ance that they would look after her in my absence and I made up my mind to return to Calcutta. But just before leaving for the station I wanted to meet my daughter and give her a glass of milk. I went up but did not find Bula in her room. I went to the other apartments thinking that she might have been taken by the women athletes who were asked to take care of her to their rooms. But she was nowhere. I grew so nervous that I started screaming. An uncanny fear gripped me. I checked every nook and corner in a desperate bid to find her, but it was all in vain.

Finally it was about six O'clock in the evening when an official rushed to inform me that Bula had been taken to a hospital by an ambulance. I was so anxious that I did not even ask the name of the hospital. I rushed out on the streets and asked a uniformed gentleman to give me a lift. He agreed but wanted to know where I had to go. I could not answer.

At last when somehow I managed to reach the hospital I found Bula lying almost unconscious and being given cold compresses every half hour to bring the fever down. That decided the matter. I had to stay at the hospital for ten days, with only a

few friends and well wishers visiting us from time to time.

Now it was Bula's turn to speak when this correspondent asked for her version. 'I was almost recovered by the twentieth and there was some talk of my going to the Games with the German coach.'

At this stage her mother broke in again. The strange thing is that Mr. Johnke did not visit the hospital to see Bula though it was said that he stayed back only to take Bula to the Games. The last time I saw him was at the swimming pool.

The question that remained unanswered was why the tour did not materialise. Nobody, neither her father nor her mother, seemed to know the reason. 'I consistently heard that Bula was going first on the 23rd then on the 25th and finally on the 27th. We just kept on hoping for the best but strangely nothing happened. True, she might not have been 100 per cent fit then, but she would have got a few days' rest at Brisbane also,' said her mother.

At this point Bula's father remarked, 'And the girl they took in Bula's place fell ill after reaching there. I have serious doubts if she was totally fit at the time of the

zam's departure. Could be she was already suffering from fever before she went.'

Bula's father was perhaps justified in expressing his anguish, considering the trouble he had been through. When Bula was selected the All India authorities asked the Bengal Swimming Federation to deposit the required Rs 7000. The association had a few meetings and took a decision that Bula's parents had no knowledge of. Anxious to ensure that no obstacle should emerge, and also going by the suggestion of the All India body, who required an assurance about the deposit money, Mr. Chaudhuri sent a personal note to the effect that he himself would deposit the amount. Later, some BSA authorities reportedly assured him that he need not worry about it. This was not his headache.

Strangely when there were only two minutes to go before the train's departure, an official asked me to pay the deposit, said Mr. Chaudhuri angrily, adding, 'I was quite surprised to say the least. They did not inform me about it and now they wanted the money from me at the platform. When I expressed surprise they referred to my assurance which I had given before. But the association is supposed to pay. I was safeguarding my daughter's interests. In any case, nothing could be done at that stage. So they went to Delhi without the money and I had sleepless nights, anxious about whether Bula would get a chance to go to Brisbane.'

Later it was reported that Bula's father had sent 4000 from Calcutta. The BSA contributed only Rs 3000.

'I was desperate about ensuring that she would not be excluded through no fault of her own. When they were leaving for Delhi I requested the officials repeatedly to do something. To think that such a talented girl should be denied a once in a lifetime opportunity was just too much to bear,' concluded Mr. Chaudhuri. After all this, is it unjustifiable for one to seek all possible means to ensure one's success?

But Bula and her father have doubts whether they should accept offers which might lead people to misunderstand them. Recently they received an offer from Maharashtra's D. H. Nanavati, father of Sonal Nanavati. On the basis of this offer, Bula will be sent to a European country for a 16 month training course under the sponsorship of the Maharashtra Swimming Association.

'In this case,' said Bula's mother, 'Bula will have to switch her allegiance from Bengal to Maharashtra. That is difficult of us to accept. We have approached the West Bengal Government to find out if they can do anything similar for Bula, because she does need foreign training. If they can't help us, that would be our last resort.'



ASIAD VENUES

by ANAND KUMAR

Right on target

The Asiad '82 has brought a windfall to many sports. To benefit most will be India's shooters as they now get one of the world's best shooting complexes at historic Fughlakabad, 12 kilometres from the Asian Games Village at Siri Fort.

The ancient city of Fughlakabad, lying in the rubble of history for the last 600 years, will reverberate once more to the festive sound of sport. One of the world's best shooting range complexes has been laid on 128 acres of land at the site where the Fughlaks used to hunt. Once more the sound of gunshot will be heard in this hoary setting, with one difference. This time there will be no live prey.

The Delhi Development Authority had the responsibility of the construction. Mr R. A. Khemani was the chief engineer, Mr T. S. Puri the architect and Mr T. S. Vaidarajan the electrical engineer.

The ranges and other facilities provided here are:

- 1 Administrative Building
- 2 50 metre Range
- 3 26-metre Pistol Range
- 4 10 metre Air Rifle Range
- 5 Two Trap Ranges and
- 6 Two Skeet Ranges

What makes the complex one of the finest is the fact that the ranges for the various events are all in the same complex. This is

not always the case. In Edmonton, for example, almost a 100 kilometres separated the different ranges. Moreover, being in a single place, the efficiency and the effectiveness of both participants and officials will greatly increase.

The doyen of all shooters, the septugenerarian Maharaja of Kota after seeing the complex remarked, "It will be a pleasure to participate in events on these ranges." Ace shooter Randhir Singh, who won a gold medal at the Eighth Asiad, reacted with the same enthusiasm. Randhir commented that, "this is going to be the most modern and sophisticated shooting range in Asia. The other such shooting range is in Seoul."

The Fughlakabad Shooting Range Complex can boast of a tremendous safety margin. Of the 128 acres in which the complex is planned, only 11 acres have been used for the actual shooting ranges themselves. The rest of the area has been consumed for spacing out the different ranges. This will have two advantages. First, the distances between any two ranges will be large enough for the noise from

one range not to disturb participants in the next. Secondly, the very same distance between ranges will contribute to greater safety.

The 15-metre (22) rifle range and 10 metre air rifle range have been designed for 60 shooting positions in keeping with the latest international standards. There is provision to increase the shooting positions to 100 to meet Olympic standards. For the Asiad, however, only 40 shooting positions will be used. The 25 metre pistol range has a provision of eight shooting sets along with two trap and two skeet ranges for clay pigeon shooting. The pistol range can be extended up to 12 shooting sets by sides providing for three trap and three skeet ranges. Further, if at any time there is need for a 300 metre rifle range it can easily be provided on the eastern side in quick time.

The rapid fire events will take place on the 25-metre range which has eight shooting sets. Each set has five electronically controlled turning targets. Each of the eight sets is controlled by a mini computer.

To ensure proper communication between the shooter and the target operator, intercom facilities have been provided. A special feature of the range design is that participants will have access to inspect the target personally. This they will do by using walkways incorporated in the design for the first time anywhere.

Another novel feature of the Fughlakabad complex is that it possesses a clay pigeon manufacturing machine.

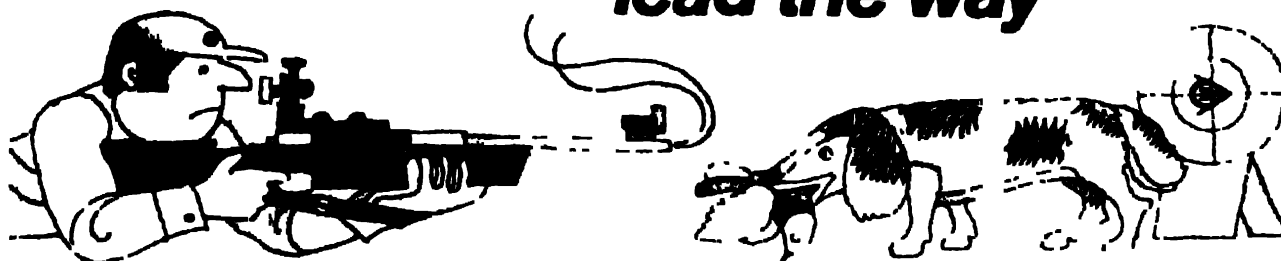
For the 400 participants expected for shooting events during the Asiad, a special camping area has been earmarked to the west of the 15 metre range. Here tents will be pitched, one for each contingent. For the trap and skeet participants separate rest rooms have been constructed as a permanent facility.

Shooting was first included in the Asian Games in the Second Asiad in 1954.

During the Ninth Asian Games there will be ten events and the competitions will be held over ten days from November 22 to December 2 with Nov. 29 being the test day.

DUNLO.

lead the way



SRIKKANTH: Back to the fore

The Tamil Nadu star, who had a string of remarkable successes against the visiting Sri Lankans, talks to

PARTAB RAMCHAND

K•SRIKKANTH Born at Madras on December 21, 1959. Besides his fairly meteoric rise in Indian cricket he has also been an excellent student. He secured a first class in his electrical engineering course when he passed out from Periyar Anna University of Technology in May 1981. Srikanth's English is as fast and fluent as his strokeplay. He answered the questions in a most facile manner during the hour and a half long interview.

SPORTSWORLD How far back can you trace your interest in cricket?

K SRIKKANTH I suppose I was the average cricket mad youngster. Like every other Indian boy, I started playing the game anywhere—at home, in the school, on the road. From the seventh standard to the tenth standard I played for my school Vidya Mandir in the TNCA Schools Junior tour.

In the eleventh standard—my final year at school—I was in the senior team. Then in 1977 I did my pre-University course at the Vivekananda College and played for the college team. I played for the junior State team in the Inter-Association

Cricket Tournament in 1977-78 and 1978-79. My good scores in the latter season (81 and 74 not out against Kerala, 105 and 74 against Hyderabad and 77 against Karnataka) helped me get a place in the State team.

SW Tell us about your State debut.

KS I was not successful in my first year. My first match was against Kerala at Trivandrum and I got only eight. The next match was against Karnataka at Madras and I got only six. In both these games I batted at

Srikanth head on hand greaves for staying out of his crease. Embury ran him out from duty.



SW: How did you become an opening batsman then?

KS: Actually, throughout my school career I used to bat in the middle order—anything between three and six. Then one day while at college the regular opening batsman was absent and the captain asked me whether I would open.

I readily agreed and got 48. I have preferred opening the batting since then. But in the first few matches for the State there were plenty of opening batsmen—Ramesh Sivaramakrishnan, Krishnaswamy Adams and myself. So, being the junior player, I went down the order.

SW: When did you first open for the State?

KS: Only in 1979-80 when I opened with Sivaramakrishnan against Hyderabad at Madras. I got 66 and we had a century stand. After that I have regularly been opening the batting.

SW: Did you receive the benefit of any coaching during those formative years?

KS: I attended the camp conducted by Mushtaq Ali in Madras in the summer of '74. Then both in 1976-77 and 1978-79 I attended the all India camps conducted by Hemu Adhikari. I have also had the benefit of many useful tips from local coaches here.

SW: Which would you think was the first season that brought you into the national limelight?

KS: Though I did play for the Indian Under 22 team against the West Indies in 1978-79 I guess the season that brought me to the forefront was 1979-80. In fact I would class that as among my best seasons.

I got that 66 against Hyderabad and was selected for South Zone against Pakistan at Hyderabad in January 1980. I got 90 and 37. That 90 was first important knock from the national angle. The runs then continued to flow.

In the Deodhar Trophy at Delhi I got 77 not out against East Zone and 28 against West Zone. Then came the Vizzy Trophy. I got 52 and 122 against West Zone and 52 and 146 against North Zone.

I am even today particularly proud of that 146. We were trailing by 127 runs on the first innings and then turned the tables on them for a fine victory. Everyone said it was because of my innings. My 146 was made off 93 balls and I hit four sixes—three of successive balls.

In one particular over I got 26 runs. And I got the runs against an attack that included Kirti Azad, Sunil Valson, Rajinder Singh Ghai and Anil Khurana. This made it a total of five hundreds in as many matches.

SW: So now we come to the 1980-81 season.

KS: Yes, this was a crucial year for me. It brought me close to national selection. The season started with

CRICKET BROTHERHOOD

Running in the family

“I DON'T come from a cricketing family,” says Srikanth. “There was absolutely no cricketing blood in the family when I was born.” But now he is very much part of a closely cricketing-knit family.

Srikanth's younger sister Snehal married State and sonal medium pacer Bharath Kumar in August 1979. One has heard of brothers playing in the same State or national teams but it is rare to have brothers-in-law playing for the same team. Bharath Kumar made his debut for Tamil Nadu in 1977-78. Srikanth made his debut the next year. Bharath Kumar made his Duleep Trophy debut in 1979-80 and played for South Zone for three years till he was dropped this year.

While it is rare enough to have brothers-in-law playing in the same team, we may well have the even rarer sight of two brothers and their brother-in-law playing for the State team. Srikanth's younger brother Srinath, 20, is an opening batsman cast in the same mould. In fact there are those who say that right now he is more secure in defence (besides having all the strokes) than Srikanth was at his age. Surely it is only a matter of time before Srinath plays for the State—some say it may even be this year—and that will be a sight rare enough to find a place in any record book.

Bharath Kumar and Snehal have a son—Abhishhek, born in November 1981—and Srikanth who is “very superstitious” admits that his nephew is his “lucky charm or whatever you may call it. He was born and almost immediately I got those important runs that brought me into the Test team last year,” he says.



the Deodhar Trophy in Madras and I got 82 against East Zone, 17 against North and 28 against West.

This was followed by the Wills Trophy and playing for the Board President's XI. I got 100 and 48 in the Moin Ud Dowla Tournament. I scored 39 and 109 against Nirlons.

The Irani Trophy came up next and that was the crucial match. I did not do well, getting only 27 and 11. Had I done well in that match I feel I might have been selected to tour Australia and New Zealand.

Then I did not play in the Duleep Trophy because I had my final examinations and missed a couple of Ranji matches for the same reason. In the league I played only against Hyderabad where I got 88 and against Karnataka when I got 172, my first century in the Ranji Trophy. In the knockout stage I got 50 and 89 against Hariana and 9 and 51 against Bombay.

SW: And what have you got to say about the season that finally brought you the national selection that you had been striving for?

KS: Yes, this was another crucial year for me. But then a run every year seems to be becoming crucial for me (laughs). I started the season by getting 65 and 48 in the Deodhar Trophy. Then I got a run of decent scores in the Wills Trophy. In the Duleep Trophy against East Zone I got 51 and 51.

I am particularly fond of these knocks for they were patient innings by my standards and the 51 was made on a turning track. Then I led the Indian Under 22 team against England at Pune and got 87 and 74. Finally I got 66 and one playing for the Board President's XI against England at Nagpur and was selected for both the one day international and the first Test at Bombay.

SW: Did you expect to be selected for the Test side?

KS: In a way, yes. I guess I had enough runs to impress the selectors but I was deadly nervous at the time of the first Test. I got a duck in the first innings. In the second innings I thought I was progressing well but was out foolishly.

SW: Do you know that even Len Hutton started his Test career with a duck?

KS: That is a comforting thought!

SW: Anyway, how do you account for your improved performance at Bangalore?

KS: Well, the first aspect to consider is the fact that this time I was not nervous, but exceedingly calm. Secondly, I had decided on a strategy that I had formed while playing in the previous match for South Zone against the visitors at Hyderabad.

I had made 23 and 31, in the process hooking a bouncer from Willis for a six. But shortly after that I got out trying another hook. By the time of the Bangalore Test, I had made up my mind. I knew the En



A happy cricketing family. Srikanth's parents are in the front. In the rear (from left) are Srekala, Srikanth's sister who is married to K. Bharath Kumar, the State and Zonal medium pacer. Srikanth's younger brother Srinath is sitting next to Bharath Kumar while Srikanth is at extreme left. His mother holds Abhishek in her lap.

glish bowlers had discovered my penchant for the hook shot and would try to feed me on those lines and try to get me out.

I normally don't like ducking under a bouncer. I prefer to hook them. But this time I had formed a definite strategy. I said to myself that if there were two men deep on the legside placed for the hook shot, I would avoid it and duck under the bouncer.

But if there was only one man guarding the area I would go for the hook. Thus one will notice that most of my 65 runs were made through hooks and flicks. I was patient and was in no hurry but again I got out like a fool cutting at Botham and was caught at slip.

But I was happy at doing well. Moreover, it helped me fulfil a personal ambition. This ambition had been to partner the great Sunil Gavaskar in a century stand for the first wicket in a Test.

SW: What about the two subsequent Tests you played?

KS: At Delhi I scored six. I hit a four while cover driving Willis off the back foot and in trying to repeat the stroke, was bowled off the inside edge of the bat. Possibly I was overconfident.

At Calcutta I knew I had to do well to retain my place. In the first innings I was bowled trying a very ambitious stroke off the first ball bowled by Underwood. In the second innings I decided to put my head down and even now I rate that 25 as a better knock than the 65 at Bangalore. I was not beaten, I was middling the ball very well and had four good drives, two off Willis and two off Botham, which raced to the fence.

The ball that got me out was one I should normally have hit for a four.

It was short and on the leg stump, but I was over-cautious and only tapped it and Botham at silly mid on held a good catch.

SW: After the Calcutta Test did you expect to be dropped?

KS: Yes. I think the selectors had given me enough chances and were right in dropping me from the side for the Madras Test.

SW: But wouldn't you have liked playing before your own crowds and on your own ground?

KS: I certainly would have, but I repeat that the selectors were right in dropping me.

SW: So what were your plans after the Test series was over?

KS: Well, I knew that I had to get good scores in the knockout matches if I was to get back in the Indian team which would tour England in the summer.

But I failed to get runs in the remaining games. Against Kerala I got ten and zero, against Uttar Pradesh, 25 and 101 and finally against Delhi 4 and 24. The Delhi match was vital and had I got runs there I feel I might have been selected. But I did not and that was that.

SW: So we come to the current season. What were your feelings in the off season?

KS: I was conscious of the fact that I had not taken full advantage of the many chances that were given to me. I was determined to get back into the team in the new season.

Apparently, what I lacked was determination, dedication and application. I had to cut out risks, choose the right ball to hit and be more secure in my defence. With all these I was not going to curb my natural strokes, because I knew I could not get runs otherwise.

SW: And how far have you gone in achieving this objective?

KS: Well, I would say so far so good, even if I have not achieved it fully. In the one-day matches against Sri Lanka I got 57, 95 and 92. Again my impetuosity cost me my wicket in those innings and I resolve not to be so rash again.

SW: At Bangalore you did get out to a rash stroke when it seemed like you would get a hundred.

KS: Yes, I gave myself too much room to try and cut and left my stumps exposed. That stroke has cost me my wicket several times and I must try to avoid it in future.

SW: I overheard Gavaskar rebuking you for getting out the way you did.

KS: Yes, I know. He usually does that.

SW: How would you refute the charge that you are a one-day cricketer rather than a five-day cricketer?

KS: I wouldn't say that the charge is correct. I am not essentially a one-day cricketer. Perhaps my natural game is more suited to one-day cricket. But would you say that my record in the Ranji Trophy and Duleep Trophy matches is bad?

I examine my scores. Compare them to one-day matches. My game is suited to both. But maybe it is more suited to one-day games. Whatever runs I get, I get quickly. Let it be one-day, three-day or five-day matches.

For example, my 172 against Karnataka—it was a three-day match—came in 204 minutes off 154 balls. I hit 22 fours and three sixes.

I am always determined to get runs and I don't play by time. If I can get a hundred in three hours, why should I bat for five or six hours for the same score? I always go by the maxim "Attack is the best form of defence." I look for a run off every ball.

SW: How would you describe your approach to batting?


KS: For me, the first ten or 20 runs are very important. This stage helps my confidence a great deal. When I am on 20, I say to myself, "Okay now, let's get that 30." And when I am 30 I say, "Come on, let's get that 40" and so on.

As you might have noticed I play the cut very rarely. I normally play it only after crossing 50 or when I am seeing the ball very well and have judged the howling and the pace off the wicket.

SW: Would you say you are stronger on the leg-side?

KS: That's the impression people have of me. But I don't think so. My favourite shot is the off-drive and I love to drive any close ball that I receive.

But who gives you a close ball these days? In top-class cricket you only get howling that is just short of a length. Against England for example I got a lot of short balls and bouncers and so naturally had to pull.



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Srikanth hooks Botham to the square leg fence during his innings of 87 for the Indian Under-22 against England at Pune in 1981-82

or hook them

SW: You are an opening batsman yet your technique is so different from others of your breed. How would you describe your pattern of play?

KS: Mine is basically an eye game. I depend so much on my two eyes. I see the ball a bit early. I know that maybe I am not technically sound. My defence is not very strong.

Some shots that I play are my own shots. They just can't be from any coaching manual. I play a lot of instinctive shots—shots that I could not possibly play again.

For example, against England at Pune while playing for the Indian Under-22 team in the second innings, I received a short ball from Botham outside the off-stump. I struck it over point for a six. Now I obviously can't play that shot again.

One thing I do know. I have decided to curb trying to lift the medium-pacers. I have tried it often. Sometimes it pays off and at other times it does not. Anyway, I have decided to curb it. But it will continue to step out to spinners and lift them over the straight field. The element of risk there is considerably less.

SW: Have you received any advice from your colleagues, past players, selectors and officials on this aspect?

KS: No one has told me that he has anything against my basic game. Everyone has told me to play my natural game and not to change it whatever happens. They have only advised me to be more careful and choose only the bad ball to hit.

SW: What do you think are your basic faults?

KS: My basic fault is over-confidence. I hit a bowler for two fours then I aim for a third. I must learn to control myself and get out of

this over-confident nature.

SW: Are there any cricketers whom you have admired?

KS: Yes, I do have three heroes. Vishwanath was my first boyhood idol. It was a great feeling to play alongside him in the Tests.

I greatly admire Viv Richards as well. His batting is real far out. My third hero is Lillee. I think it is great of him to have come back into the game so strongly after such a serious back injury.

SW: How far has your family helped your cricketing career?

KS: My dad is a businessman. Basically I come from a very religious family. Our belief in numerology is very strong. We do everything according to numerology.

Two instances of this are my name and that of my sister Srikanth. Otherwise it is normally spelt Srikanth and Srekala is usually spelt Srikala.

I am also very superstitious. You may have seen some of my mannerisms—looking at the sun, touching my pads, twirling my bat and so on, before every delivery. For some time last year I had given up these mannerisms, but I find they are slowly becoming part of my game again. While batting, I normally sing to myself—either film songs or *slokas*. This, I find, relieves the tension.

SW: Name some of your best knocks.

KS: The best knock I think would be the 90 for South Zone against Pakistan, at Hyderabad in 1979-80. Again, all my shots came off and the attack was a good one with Imran bowling really fast bouncers. The attack also included Iqbal Qasim, Abdul Qadir and Ehteshamuddin.

It was also a very vital innings for me because it brought me nearer to national recognition. Close behind this would rank my 146 for South Zone against North Zone in the Vizzy Trophy final the same season. I look

back at this knock with satisfaction because it helped turn the tables on our opponents and we went on to win from a seemingly hopeless position. After these two would come my 65 in the Bangalore Test and the 172 against Karnataka.

SW: Among your two Ranji Trophy centuries, which do you rank the better?

KS: The 172 against Karnataka was the better of the two in my opinion. It was a good aggressive innings. It was not very chancy as far as my knocks usually go. Also, I believe that Tamil Nadu had not got a bonus point against Karnataka for twenty years and they got it in that match. I feel proud that my century contributed to it.

SW: A lot has been made of the fact that you don't even use a cap let alone a helmet, while batting, when batsmen these days use a lot of protective gear. What have you got to say to this?

KS: I can only say that so far I have never really felt the need for a helmet. Honestly. But I may probably wear it one day. Who knows?

SW: Do you enjoy fielding?

KS: I like fielding anywhere in the outfield from the covers to deep third man, mid wicket to long leg. I don't like standing at slip, though I did stand at short leg in the four Tests I played.

SW: What are your hobbies?

KS: I like Western music and Hindi films songs. I read books only once in a while and only rarely read cricket books. My idea of relaxation is to sit with my old college mates on the Elliotts' Beach culvert and chat away the hours.

SW: What are your future plans?

KS: First to regain my place in the Test side and then to play for India as long as I can. I would like to be known and remembered as an enterprising batsman.





NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Two for the future

AMRIT MATHUR dwells on the prospects of two promising Delhi cricketers, Gursharan and Maninder Singh

ASK the senior players or the experts to name some outstanding young cricketers in India today. Compare the lists. Two names—Maninder and Gursharan Singh—are bound to appear repeatedly. And no wonder for the potential of these super Sikhs of Delhi, one a left arm spinner and the other a right hand batsman, is absolutely overwhelming.

Said Chetan Chauhan, a veteran of 15 seasons of first class cricket and no mean judge of talent: "They are very, very good. Both have talent in heaps. I would be surprised if they don't represent the country for a long time." Sharing these senti-

ments though a bit guardedly, was none other than Bishan Singh Bedi: "They are terrific for their age. They will surely go far."

They have already travelled quite an impressive distance—in just one season. Gursharan, a second year Hindu College student is 19 (born on 8 March, 1963) and Maninder is only 17 (born on 13 June, 1965). Yet, both are playing for North Zone and even distinguishing themselves. The past season was particularly happy for both, Gursharan playing two superb innings getting centuries off Karnataka and England. Maninder himself got 40 Ranji wickets from only five matches bagging five wickets or

more in an innings on four occasions.

Besides success, skill and Sikhism these two boys share a lot more things. They went to the same school, Bal Bharti Air Force, and were coached by Gurcharan Singh, a person who has produced almost the entire swarm of talent presently spilling out of North Zone. Gursharan, revealed coach Gurcharan, was spotted rather fortuitously. "He was recommended to me by someone who saw him play in a park. I called him to the nets. His potential was unmistakable. I had him shifted to Bal Bharti where they encouraged sports and took him under my fold."

Progress was instantaneous as Gursharan immediately set about demolishing the bowlers. He made his mark for the first time in 1979-80 when, playing for the North Zone schools, he hit 41 and 100 not out against Central Zone. The following year he got 70 off Haryana and 102 versus East Zone. Such success in the schools' tournaments brought him swiftly into the Under 22 team. And scores of 45 not out, 48 and 64 not out enabled him to find a place in the North Zone side. Gursharan didn't fail here either: he promptly cracked 115 against the West in the finals.

This astonishing flood of runs continued unabated in the 1981-82 season. Gursharan scored centuries in C. K. Nayudu Trophy (120 against Haryana), the Inter Varsity tournament (130 against Calcutta) and in the Ranji Trophy (101 against Karnataka). Playing for the Indian Under 22 versus England he got 101 and 31 not out when Willis, Botham, Dilley, Allott, Emburey were playing. A fifth century in the season was narrowly missed when he was dismissed at 90 by Central Zone.

But there were failures, too. Touring England with the Under 19 team Gursharan didn't exactly excel. Then he flopped in some important Ranji matches besides the North Zone game against England.

These failures were actually only minor aberrations in what was a glittering string of successes. And what makes Gursharan Singh ("Pallu") more pleasing is his humility. While describing his century against England he was characteristically modest: "The wicket was meant for batting. It was straight and had an even bounce. The ball hardly did anything. Though Willis' balls rose, Botham, Dilley, Allott were straight. Emburey also got no turn."

The other marvelous knock that Gursharan played was in the Ranji final. He scored a fine century, playing at number three for the first time when Delhi were chasing Karnataka's mammoth 705. In a match that produced more than 1400 runs, his was by far the best knock. Said Gursharan: "Mohinder had an upset stomach so he asked me to go on—down and play straight. I was determined to make good as I had failed



Gursharan Singh

in the earlier matches. The wicket was lovely and I thought that if they can make 700 runs, then so can we." Gursharan Singh's technique, thanks to coach Gurcharan, is sound. His stance is upright and easy and being short (5'7"), he does not have to bend too much. Watch him play a forward defensive shot and you realise that the basics of batting are correct. He really gets over the ball, head down, the left elbow is out, the front knee bent, the right hand loose. Anything short and Gursharan is right behind, back and across.

More important, he is a bright stroke-player with a penchant for hitting between mid-wicket and mid-on. He plays straight and refrains from the cut or the pull. Further, he has the qualities that only the accomplished players possess. His centuries testify that Gursharan has the ability to play and build a long innings. His concentration is intense and the timing, an unfailing indication of class, is most pleasing.

"His greatest quality", said Chauhan, "is his maturity. He is very cool. Doesn't panic in a tight situation." Added Surinder Khanna, Gursharan's team-mate, "Palli is a class player. He is simply superb on the leg side. I haven't seen any youngster as good as him." Coach Gurcharan too was understandably ecstatic. "I'm very happy that he has become a fine player who has all the shots. He is a good boy. Simple and hard working. A willing worker, he never complains. I hope he plays for India soon."

Before he does that, however, Gursharan's batting could do with some improvements. Conceded that he is very good on the on side but at times you get the impression that he is trying to hit every thing, even balls pitching around off stump, through mid wicket. Agrees Chauhan. "Yes, he must correct this or he would be in great trouble if the ball leaves him. Basically, I think, he needs two years in Ranji Trophy." If Maninder is presently better known than Gursharan then it is only because he made a name for himself a season earlier. In 1980-81 playing in the C. K. Nayudu Trophy matches, he got about 40 wickets from five games and in the following year, was elevated to the Ranji level at Bishan's behest. He repeated the performance. He took exactly 40 wickets again from 5 matches, now at 14.57 each.

Remarkably, even at 17 Maninder's bowling technique is extremely correct. The action is flawless, in the final stride the body is side-on and the right arm reaches for the sky before the left descends gracefully. The ball, after landing, breaks a good deal moving nippily towards slip. His greatest asset, however, is the bounce he obtains even from pitches that normally don't yield much.



Maninder Singh

Being a Sikh and a left arm spinner, led inevitably to unnecessary comparisons with Bishan Singh Bedi. What excited the critics more was the fact that Bishan took a personal interest in the lad. But Bishan and Maninder are different bowlers. Bishan was a trifle slower and his teasing flight was superbly controlled. Maninder, on the other hand, is taller and a shade quicker through the air.

Remarked B. S. Rattan, former manager of the Delhi team and an old mate of Bishan's. "Maninder's greatest asset is the sting in his turn. Maybe he is as talented as Bishan was at this age but I am not sure. I think Bishan had a superior mind."

That Maninder has to learn a trick or two before he can think of attaining the heights Bishan scaled is very obvious. "He needs to bowl more at the middle and off rather than outside the off," confessed coach Gurcharan Singh. "Manni should attack more. His direction could also do with some improvement."

Rattan was more explicit. "Like all NIS bowlers, he is too defensive. He ought to make the ball come in from the blind side of the right-hander and invite the dangerous shot over mid wicket. Moreover, he must be made aware of his qualities and made to work hard."

At the moment he is doing just that under the watchful gaze of Bishan Bedi and Gurcharan Singh. "He will learn quickly," said Chetan Chauhan. "I like him because he is a serious boy who listens when you tell him something. He has the talent, the brain and the ambition. He really wants to succeed."

Not that he isn't succeeding already. Last year, Maninder toured England, later captained a junior team to the West Indies and on both trips got a bagful of wickets. "We got good wickets which helped us. It didn't rain much in England and it was almost like playing in India. But the batsmen there have little idea of spin bowling. They come forward and grope or take a wild swing," he said.

Gursharan and Maninder are, as they say, on the threshold of "long and distinguished careers." Barring a crippling dose of ill fortune, of course. Currently, both are immersed in cricket. If not playing they are thinking about the game. Studies are secondary and other distractions are not tolerated either. Gursharan visits the gurdwara regularly and Maninder's devotion is no less. His scrap book is so elaborate that it even contains the coin with which he won the toss in an important school game.



IFA SHIELD FINAL

MOHUN BAGAN: Six of the best

CHUNI GOSWAMI reviews the IFA Shield tournament

TO win any tournament for six years on the trot is in itself a great achievement but to achieve this feat in the prestigious IFA Shield is undoubtedly all the more greater. And this is just what Mohun Bagan did as they registered their 15th triumph in a tournament once the Blue Riband of Indian football, but now surely with a patch of grey. The brown and green shirts have advanced the message they had lost in the year of trouble and on the whole they have had a good season this year considering the fact that they had lost out in the Federation Cup.

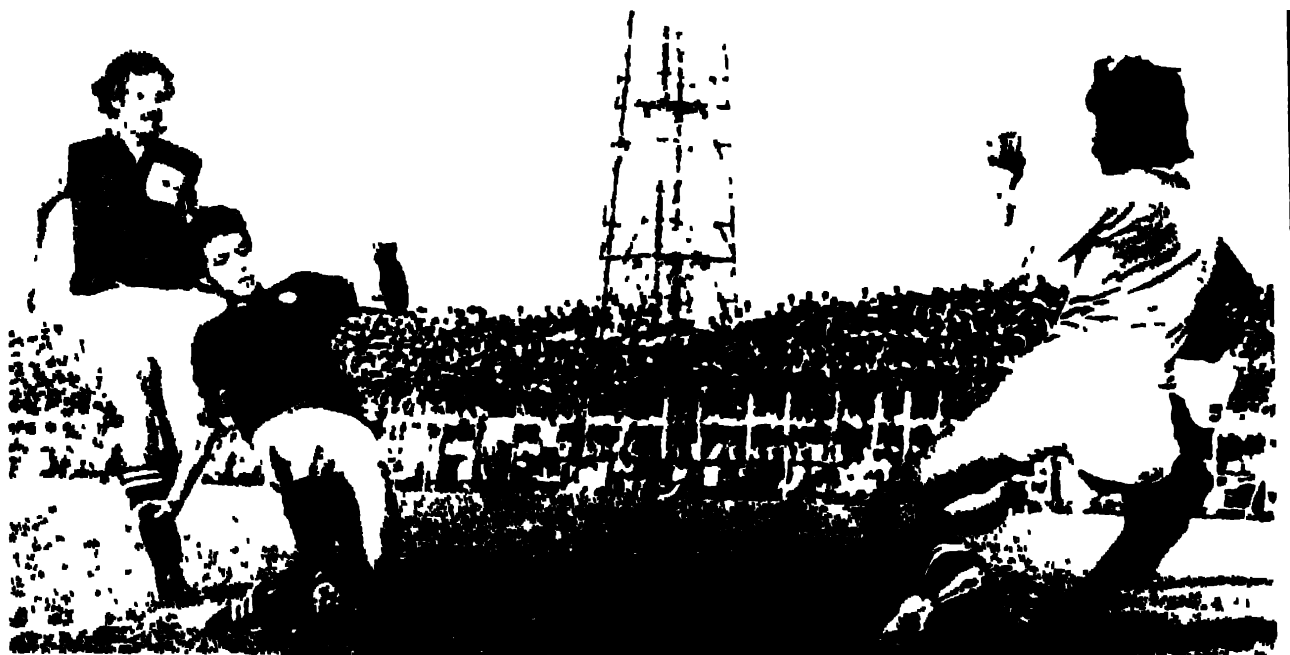
Most people are of the opinion that the quality of football dished out at the last few IFA Shield tournaments have not been up to the mark. Why only blame the IFA Shield? One cannot get away from the fact that East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting are still the three top teams in the country. They played in this year's IFA Shield

and as such represent the standard of Indian football. The state of the game in India is itself in the doldrums and the IFA Shield is just another tournament where this point is driven home.

The only reason I can think of as to why teams from other centres in India do not come to play in the IFA Shield is that they are not used to the monsoonic weather in Bengal. Over the years matches have been played in the IFA Shield on quagmires. I particularly remember an incident from the 1950s to illustrate the point. Hyderabad Police had won the Rovers Cup for five years in row but had never managed to win this Calcutta tournament. In pursuit of this objective they came to Calcutta a month before the Shield started to get acclimatised. Even this did not help and the Police team failed to win. Thus we see that it is the local teams that have always dominated this tournament.

Coming back to this year's tournament, I think it could have been a good idea if the Indian team preparing for the Asiad would have taken part. This would have given them good match practice and would have been a stage rehearsal for the Asiad. Moves could have been worked out by trial and error and the team would have benefited. All the AIFF had to do was to pass a resolution allowing the Indian team, or perhaps even two, the India Blue and India White to take part. This move would have made the tournament all the more competitive and also—because of playing to virtually a home crowd—would have surely helped to boost the sagging spirit of P.K. Banerjee's boys after the debacle at the Merdeka. Even the Indian juniors could have been included and this would have further increased spectator interest.

League champions East Bengal were upset by Mohammedan Sport-



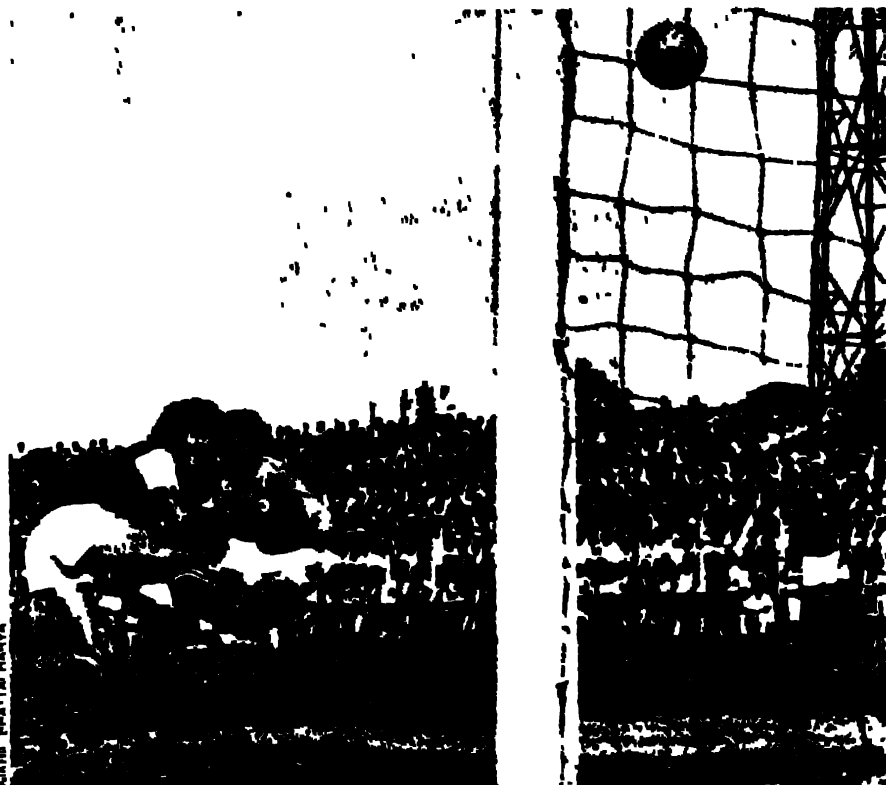
Shyam Thapa, scoring the match winner for Mohun Bagan while Moidul Islam, the Mohammedan Sporting skipper, watches helplessly.

ing in the semi-final while Mohun Bagan did not have many problems against the Harwood League champions Mahindra and Mahindra. The green and maroon shirts must have surely started as favourites in the final played on their home ground. Just a word about the distribution of tickets. Critics maintain that there is no 'public sale' of tickets. This is not true because in the ultimate analysis it is the public (club members and their friends) who finally get to see the match.

I have never been a statistician as far as football records go and it was only a few minutes before the match started that I was informed that this was the first time Mohun Bagan were playing Mohammedan Sporting in the final of the IFA Shield. These two teams have been around in Calcutta football for over half a century and it was indeed surprising that this was the first time they were meeting in the Shield final. Mohun Bagan's victory helped them set up a record which I believe will be a difficult one to break. Even though in three out of the six victories they had to be content with sharing the Shield, Mohun Bagan's fifteen triumphs are a noteworthy effort.

THE victory of Shyam Thapa's boys in the final was neither sudden nor unexpected. Except for a few anxious moments in the first half, Mohun Bagan undoubtedly enjoyed a major share of the exchanges. They proved in the ninety minutes of the game that they were the superior team. However, it would be hypocritical to say that the game was an excellent one. It was for the most part nothing out of the ordinary. Undoubtedly the match was played at a good pace but none of the teams wanted to take any risks. As in all "big matches" there is a tremendous amount of pressure and the nerves are considerably taxed. Even with all this pressure the match was played in the best of spirits and on no occasion did any of the players commit a deliberate foul. Matches have to be won but there is no use winning them at all costs. One has to always be within the rules of the game and for this I would like to congratulate both the teams for their clean performance. Even though the competitive spirit was there, there were occasions when the game took a dreary course with the ball being confined to the midfield.

The first thing that comes to one's mind as one looks back on the final are the three goals that were scored. Krishanu Dev, in my opinion, is one of the best ball players in the city today and holds a lot of promise. No doubt he is basically a one foot player but then it is better to have a good kick with a left foot than no kick at all. Krishanu has had a good season this year and should go places in the near future. I am sure he must have been a very happy man after scoring



Jamshed Nasiri, scoring the equalizer

the first goal of the final fifteen minutes after the match started.

Young Bikash Panji playing as a linkman passed the ball onto Ulaganathan who in turn found Krishanu Dey. The last named was at a virtual zero degree angle from the Sporting goalpost. Shyam Thapa, the Bagan skipper and the opportunist Amitava Mukherjee were lying handy right in front of the goalmouth. Everyone on the ground, including the Mohammedan Sporting custodian Pratap Ghosh, thought that Krishanu would back centre the ball to one of his team-mates. Krishanu had other intentions and seeing that the goalkeeper was waiting for the crosspass, decided to take the shot at the goal himself. And Hey Presto! Mohun Bagan were a goal up. Their fans in delirium. The goal proved beyond doubt that this young left legged player has all the makings of a star footballer. However, he does need more experience, needs to sharpen his reflexes and must learn exactly when to release the ball. I am sure with a couple of years more experience, Krishanu is bound to blossom into one of the leading players in the country.

Nevertheless, the first goal of Mohun Bagan was scored against the run of play as this was the period in the match when the black and white shirts had the upper hand. Debasish Roy and Nirmal Chatterjee were looking particularly dangerous at this time and the goal that was scored against them in no way deterred their enthusiasm.

Twenty nine minutes into the first

half Nirmal outran the Bagan right back Krishnendu Roy after which he lobbed the ball into the Bagan goalmouth. Just a word about Krishnendu. In the season this year he has, undoubtedly, proved himself to be the utility man for his team. He has played as a forward, as a linkman and in the later stages of the season in the deep defence. Sankar Banerjee, the Bagan coach, must really consider himself lucky to have such a useful player in his team. Now back to Nirmal's lob into the Bagan goalmouth. The normally reliable Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Shivaji Banerjee missed the flight of the ball and Jamshed always so brilliant in the air, headed. The ball was entering the Bagan net and Satyajit Ghosh only helped it in with his knee. So for the record books it goes down as a self goal. Shivaji Banerjee said after the match that his foot got stuck and that is why he missed the flight of the ball. "Otherwise," he said, "it would never have been a goal."

I have always maintained that Shyam Thapa is one of the most dangerous players when inside the six-yard box. Amitava Mukherjee picked up a pass from Panji after which he outwitted a Sporting defender. Shyam by this time had positioned himself well and an Amitava pass via Krishnendu Roy found him. Thapa had used the years of his experience and it was a perfect example of timing and positioning. The goal gave Mohun Bagan their sixth triumph in a row in the IFA Shield. Shyam Thapa was chaired. Deservedly so. His dream was fulfilled.

Is there life after football?

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAI investigates

TODAY their best companions are their memories—the memories of those golden days when life was football football life. The moments of joy, the pangs of failure, the rivalry, the togetherness, the affection of the fans and patrons. They all flash upon their minds from time to time when old comrades, the old familiar faces of bygone days, suddenly surface from among the crowd.

They are the veterans—the old war heroes of Calcutta football who at one time formed the cream of the country's soccer talent. They trod the turf when India was by no means a negligible factor in Asian circles.

In fact, those were the days which can rightly be described as the age of promise in the history of Indian football—the mid Sixties and the Seventies. The standard of football was quite high without doubt higher than that of today, though training and coaching facilities could not be compared with what is available now.

In those days, there were no financial prospects, no scope for building one's career on the game. It was a world fraught with uncertainty where only those who were madly in love with the game could dare to indulge in the pursuit of something which they considered most valuable.

No obstacle was stiff enough to stop them, no hardship hard enough to deter them from their toil. And their efforts did not go unrewarded. Successes in the international arena from 1951 till the mid Sixties will ever tell that story. Indian football rose to unprecedented heights, thanks to a number of talented footballers who appeared on the scene almost simultaneously to add a memorable chapter in the history of the game in this country.

But where are they now, after having retired from competitive football? What is their life like today? What sort of connection do they have with the game at present? What returns did they get for their dedicated service to the game?

These are the questions that prompted this writer to meet a few soccer veterans of the past to find out their lifestyle after retirement

from the foreground of active football.

For some, the withdrawal has been total. In such cases, most of their time is now devoted to things an ordinary man is supposed to be busy with. Late rising, a hurried browse through the morning newspaper with slightly more attention to the sports pages, elbowing one's way through the crowded streets of the city to office, back home in the evening. In between may come an hour devoted to the running commentary of the League matches. This apart, soccer plays little or no part in their lives.

For others, however, football has not yet become as remote from life as their more forgetful contemporaries. It still occupies an important place in their minds, in their awareness. It is still very much a part of their existence. The happenings on the greens, the drama, the disputes, the controversies still find a responsive chord in them. For them it is a case of coming off the field to sit on the sidelines. They are not bidding good-bye to the world they once belonged so closely to.

Many of them are still directly involved in the affairs of the maidan.

Generally, they are still associated with the clubs they served in their youth. Sometimes they help these clubs by giving free coaching to junior, inexperienced players. In times of crisis, they provide their wise counsel to the club authorities. Instances are not rare when these veterans have saved their favourite organisations from many a critical situation.

But the strangest—and most disquieting fact—is that most of these veterans are hardly shown any respect by the present generation of those who control the game in the city. Ungratefulness is the hallmark of their class and so it is small wonder that they seek these veterans' help in the proverbial hour of crisis, only to forget about them immediately after.

A former footballer, a celebrity in his heyday, begging club officials for a ticket to watch a big match is not an unfamiliar sight. "Today, power is concentrated in the hands of the moneyed people and the opportunists," said a well-known footballer of the Sixties, who pleaded anonymity lest his comments result in the curtailment of whatever benefits he gets these days. He added, "like cricket, football too has now become a profitable proposition. Some people want to make money out of it and some seek self-publicity through their association with this popular game. Frankly speaking, soccer is only of secondary importance to them. They know nothing about it, nor do they try to."

"The only thing they are after is money and, of course, fame. Whenever you find them showing a keen interest in the game and the players, you know for sure that they are trying to hoodwink you to conceal their real motives. They are the enemies of the game in disguise. It is largely because of them that we are gradually losing our interest in the well-being of football in this State. The juggernauts must be removed first."

But should not their misdeeds be brought to light by those who know of the secret goings-on? I put this question to the same footballer. He shrugged, saying "who is going to



Prasanta Sinha

listen to us today? The world of football knows only one tense—the present. Once you are out of the running, nobody will pay any attention to you. If one says anything against anybody, people will say you only grumble. Who bothers about us? This is the tragedy of us retired players. Neither can we protest, nor can we tolerate. We only suffer.”

There is little doubt about the fact that many of our former greats have opted to stay away from football mainly because of the heinous atmosphere that prevails in almost all soccer centres of the country. We could have utilised their expertise to good advantage. Their vast experience would have helped us overcome a number of problems, especially with regard to coaching and grooming talented young players at an early age.

It is ironical that in a country with an abundance of talented footballers who have proved their prowess at home and abroad, one of the prime drawbacks at present is a lack of efficient coaches and sincere administrators. The root cause of this is the unwillingness among our veterans to get involved in the complicated situation that grips the game now.

In their days, the entire atmosphere in game was totally free from what can be described as extra football problems. These are the

problems that have nothing to do directly with the game, but instead are created by people who hover around the corridors of power in pursuit of their own interest. Said Prasanta Sinha, a national player of great repute who played for this country in several international tournaments including an Asian Games. “In our time the general environment was totally free from tension. Of course, there was an atmosphere of rivalry and competition among the players, but that is nothing unnatural. In fact, it is a healthy sign and required for one to improve one’s game.”

Moreover, the men who were at the helm of things were absolutely dedicated to the cause of the game. They themselves were players of great repute and their sole purpose in life was to work for the betterment of the game. They looked upon the players as their own children and whoever could show promise was given all possible help to go up the ladder.

“Take my case. But for Baghda (Bagha Shome) I could never have fulfilled my dream of being a good footballer. I was only a para (local) player and used to play on the streets with bare feet. From there I was brought straight to the first division. No controversy arose. No body grumbled. Thank God, I vindicated my mentor’s faith in me.”

“But now,” continued Prasanta Sinha, “the atmosphere is different. Very different. It is much more tense and is ridden with fierce undercurrents of rivalry.”

“This is caused by various factors like people adopting unfair means in order to get their candidates selected and so on. In my time, if a player was not in the team we could tell him so straightaway. Relationships between players were so easy and cordial, free from all sorts of unwanted intervention. But today this is not possible. I can’t spell out all the reasons. Many people are responsible for it. But the fact is that these things have led us to keep aloof from football. After retirement I received many coaching offers, but I preferred to lead a peaceful life.”

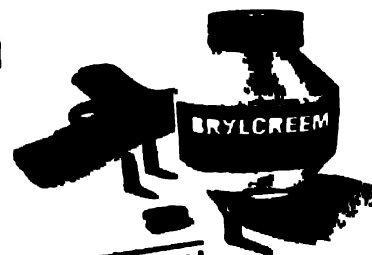
“These days my contact with the game has become negligible. As a matter of fact it is wearing thinner and thinner day by day. Sometimes I go to the maidan, visit the old clubs, come in contact with many known faces. But I try and remain away from it all. It’s all part of my memory now—a once-upon-a-time kind of thing.”

“But I’ve no regrets for having severed all connections with the game after my retirement. On the contrary, I realise that my decision was absolutely correct, especially when I consider what the situation is like today. At least I can always say

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one thing—football has never been a source of bitterness in my life. It has been enjoyment all the way. Some people, mostly my close friends, often tell me that had I maintained my connections with soccer, I could have earned a lot in various capacities. 'Don't you see how much some of your contemporaries are earning still?' they ask me. Some even lament that we were players of the Fifties and Sixties and not of the Eighties, had we been we could have earned much more than we did in our times. True, but I've never been so profit-minded in my attitude towards the game. Nor could any of us afford to be in our time.

"You would not believe me if I tell you how much we used to get from the clubs. Compared to today's standards it was nothing. The system of providing employment to players was also not in vogue at that time. So it was our sheer love for the game that made us take to it seriously."

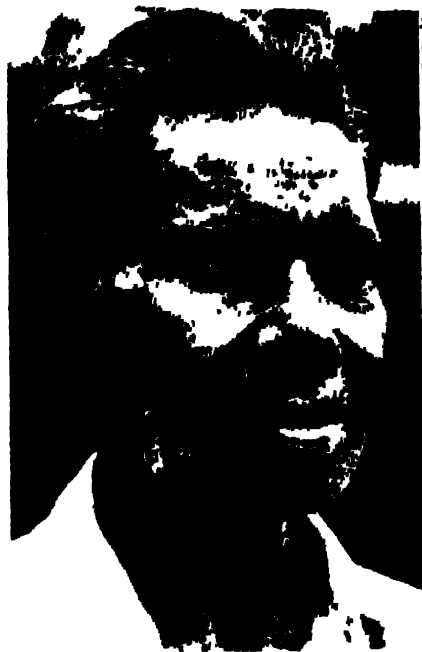
"I secured a job for myself even before joining East Bengal club all on my own. It had nothing to do with my association with football. Thus we learnt never to expect anything from the game except success. This I have got and naturally, I feel no pang of regret today when I see footballers making easy money from the game regardless of the standards of their performance."

Prasanta Sinha retired from first division football in 1972 when he was with East Bengal. The question that arises in one's mind is whether the club, one of the top-ranking sides, provided any financial benefits to him at that time. The answer is no.

"Here nobody bothers to take any interest in the future of an outgoing player. The present is all that matters in this environment. As long as one can give one's club service, no problem. After that, the chapter is closed. This system is in vogue even now. I think serious thought should be given in this direction. Something should be done about it."

"Take the case of Pintu (Samarendra) Chowdhury or that of Tarun Bose. Everybody knows how great they were in their day. But when they retired, they just slipped silently into oblivion. Nobody thought of the great service they had rendered to the game and to the clubs. No extra financial benefit was provided to them. Such a fate befalls most of our footballers these days," lamented Prasanta Sinha, whose only concrete link with soccer now is that he is one of the selectors of the Bengal junior team.

Mr Sinha is as sincere in this, his present responsibility, as he was as a player in his younger days. The glimmers of days gone by return to his life when the veterans get together on certain occasions, sometimes to attend picnics or to play friendly exhibition matches or some times just for the sake of a few hours of refreshing *adda*. Says he, "We



Swamy Nayar

always look forward to such get-togethers. Those are the happiest moments in my life now. The light of the other days illuminates everybody's mind. The achievements are remembered, the failures reviewed, old jokes are cracked and old nick names recalled."

But not all veterans have severed their relations with the game. Many have chosen to continue their service to soccer either by coaching promising youngsters or holding responsible positions in the different administrative bodies that rule the game.

In the former case, it is perhaps the best way for a footballer to pass his retired life, sharing his expertise with those who really need to learn the finer points of the game. They also make up for the latter's lack of experience with advanced theoretical aspects of soccer. It is something only the old timers, who undoubtedly raised the standard of Indian football, can provide to the present aspirants.

Some do so in a big way as coaches of the junior clubs of Calcutta. Abdus Sattar, the 1952 Olympian, is one of them. After his retirement from competitive football he has devoted his life entirely to coaching and grooming promising junior players who generally make their debut in first division football as members of the small clubs. He has generally been connected with Howrah Union as their coach after calling it a day from Mohun Bagan.

But what did the authorities of the big clubs do for him when he quit the game? Did they have any plans to grant him financial benefits for retired life? "No. Never. We could not think of any such thing then," said Sattar.

"Of course, it is not that players never got benefits from their clubs after they retired. There were in-

deed certain instances of reputed players getting special grants from their authorities after their exit from the scene. For instance, Appa Rao and Venkatesh, as far as I know, were given a handsome amount of money when they retired. The man who made that possible was Jyotish Guha. But these were a few exceptional cases. On the other hand, most footballers were doomed to a life of tremendous hardship when their playing days were over.

"Take the case of Dhanraj or even of Swami Navar," continued Sattar. "Can anybody ever overlook the services they rendered to their clubs and to Indian football? What are they doing today? Navar, that great footballer whose record of the highest scorer in the league still stands unbroken, has virtually no source of income. Your present top scorers cannot raise their tally beyond 13 or 14 even when playing 70-minute matches. In our time, the duration of play was only 50 minutes, yet he scored as many as 36 goals. Can you imagine that? And after all this, he is leading his life in dire poverty. Even then, he has not stopped serving the game. He trains a number of young boys with great care."

"Now, think of Dhanraj, he was my colleague but retired recently. I don't know what he is going to do now with his three teenaged children. He had a few service breaks and I don't think he is going to get a handsome amount of money from his employers. I could have been in an even worse position had I not been lucky enough to get a job here in Bud & Co., after dissociating myself from Customs."

"The latter was a second division club then and my ambition was to play in the India team in the Olympics. But this was simply impossible if one got stuck in a second division team. So I sacrificed the job for greater achievements. It was a great risk, but my ambition was fulfilled when I got selected for the 1952 Olympics."

That, then, is the story of life after football. It is like being banished from the limelight to the dark corners backstage. Now the question is, surely some projects can be taken up by the patrons of the game in the country to ensure proper rehabilitation of these players. Remember the entertainment they provided. Remember the honours they brought the nation, despite all the handicaps in those early days when India was just emerging from the darkness of bondage.

To play football then was like gambling with one's career. They hazarded it all just for their love of the game. What about those who benefited from their toil? What about their countrymen who rejoiced over India's success and cursed the footballers for their failures? Do they not have a duty to light a candle for their dark future?

HERE'S THE 1984 OLYMPICS

HAL STRAUSS

OPENING Ceremonies—July 28, 1984 Turah! Turah! The traditional March of Olympic Athletes is about to commence. Here they come now through the north gate of Los Angeles Coliseum.

Algeria Angola Argentina

Smiling proudly, dressed in the native garb of their homelands, bringing tidings of good cheer to their brothers and sisters in America. The crowd of 92,000 watches with blasé respect. Many spectators wear sun visors, shorts, mesh tops or no tops at all in the 88 degree heat. Many more wear royal-blue Dodger baseball caps, having taken a wrong turn off the Harbor Freeway and winding up here instead of Chavez Ravine.

"Hey beer! Getcha ice-cold beer here!"

Gabon Gambia Ghana Great Britain. The procession winds like a snake around the stadium, led by Sam the Official Olympic Mascot—a 7'2" foot grinning eagle in top hat and bow tie, designed by Walt Disney Studios especially for the Olympic Games. Contrary to the dignified solemnity of previous Opening Ceremonies, Sam does a sprightly soft shoe à la Fred Astaire. So professional is the routine, in fact, that many in the vast Olympic audience speculate it really is Fred Astaire and worry that the old hooper may be having a hard time breathing inside the eagle suit.

But no matter, Fred is a trooper and gaiety is the Keynote of the afternoon's festivities. Even the uncomfortable temperature and smog-index level (first stage, cancerous) do not dampen the spirits of the assembled throng.

Kuwait Laos Lebanon

Of course many athletes are not participating in the march. The entire upper Volta delegation is missing, for example, having taken a wrong turn off the Santa Monica Freeway. The delegation was last seen by a Highway Patrol car heading east on the San Bernardino Freeway toward Glendale.

And still the athletes march—arranging themselves now into the five circle Olympic pattern, symbolizing the spirit of cooperation

among the five continents linked by athletics.

"Hey, mascot's here! Mascots! Sam's here!" ("Who brought the dope?" "The dope? I don't got in man. I thought you brought it!")

Yemen Yugoslavia Zambia

Turah! Turah! Time for the lighting of the Olympic flame. ("That's good stuff, man. What is it?" "Some kinda Lebanese stuff, man." "Yeah Lebanon! Go-o-o-o Lebanon!")

Susan Anton, who won a furious battle with Mariel Hemingway and James Figg for the right to carry the Olympic torch, charges into the Coliseum. It has been widely rumored that a high-powered publicity campaign in variety put Susan over the top in the balloting.

("Mmmm, look it that sweet honey, man. She can hurdle over me anytime.")

Susan's Malibu-tanned legs glide gracefully over the new Coliseum track—a spanking-new \$62 million oval donated by ARCO, the Official Olympic Oil and Gas. The crowd roars with approval as she runs up a 100 foot, papier-mache Mt. Olympus provided by Twentieth Century-Fox, the Official Olympic Moviemaker, and hands the torch to Alan Hamel and Suzanne Somers, the Official Olympic God and Goddess. The regal couple wear matching lavender suede robes, pink leotards and gold crowns donated by Gucci of Beverly Hills, the Official Olympic Crown maker.

As Alan holds the Olympic torch, Olivia Newton John begins her special rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. "Oh say can you see/That we're getting physical/Phys-ica-aal." ("Hey ding those sounds, man. Do Pacman Fever! Go-o-o Olivia!")

FIRST Day of Competition—29 July, 1984. The L.A. freeways, usually congested affairs at 4p.m. on a weekday afternoon, were thrown into absolute pandemonium today as thousands of Olympic spectators were stranded in a traffic jam near the Coliseum. Police reports indicate that the tie up was apparently caused by an overheated Buick, the Official Olympic Automobile.

On a higher note, Antti Kalliomäki of Finland set a world pole vault record of 19'2" during the first day's events. Unfortunately, only 205 people actually witnessed the feat because of low layer that completely covered the Coliseum infield.

As expected, television coverage of today's competition—led by Howard Cosell, Jim McKay, Keith Jackson and the rest of ABC's sportscasting team—was superb. In eight hours of coverage (three hours in prime time), the network managed to insert 118 plugs and 26 commercials advertising four new shows focusing on Olympic themes—headed by Marathon Midget Man, starring Gary Coleman. In addition the network plans to broadcast a special two-hour segment of Love Boat this week with guest appearances by Bruce Jenner, Mark Spitz, Donna DeVerona and Buster Orabbe.

THOUGH sponsors have been jumping on the LAOOC bandwagon, the campaign has not gone smoothly in every case. Take the General Motors/Buick deal. After searching fruitlessly for an American auto sponsor for almost a year, Ueberroth turned the matter over to an Albuquerque ad agency with connections in Detroit. Datsun, VW, Mercedes and BMW were practically killing each other for a piece of the Olympic pie, but the committee very logically wanted a U.S. sponsor. After all, how would it look if the first Olympics to be held in America in 52 years—and in L.A., Car Capital of the Universe, of all places—could not attract an American car sponsor?

Financially troubled GM finally succumbed in August 1981 to the tune of \$4 million, plus 500 Buicks for the use of LAOOC and USOC officials during the Games. Sure, the Germans and Japanese had offered \$10 million, but sometimes you must pay a price for national pride.

Even so, considering that GM may go the way of the Dodo bird any day now, the deal must be viewed as one of the great coups in corporate history. Yes, the 50,000 laid-off GM autoworkers must have been overjoyed to hear that their "poor" com-

pany just spent \$ four million for the right to use Sam the Olympic Eagle in its advertising. In GM upper management, however, you may rest assured that all is Bliss City. Take six-to-one odds that the new Buick "Olympian" (sleek, athletic, record-setting, etc.) will be in your friendly neighbourhood GM showroom by July '84?

While Olympic officials are tooling around in their Buicks, the 250,000 predicted visitors to the Games will be lucky to tool at all. L.A.'s traffic problems are well known, but July-August '84 may become the stuff of legend.

"Residents of southern California and visitors from around the world will face very serious, possibly crippling, traffic congestion throughout the Games," warns Cal Trans official David Roper.

Not to worry, says Ueberroth. It will be possible "to get all athletes from the Olympic Villages to stadia within 90 minutes."

Great. And you thought you had commuting problems.

All sorts of solutions to the traffic problem have been proposed. Putting on concerts to keep spectators at the sites past the peak traffic hours—even implementing an abbreviated daily work schedule, the idea being to clear the streets of rush hour traffic before the major events begin at 4 p.m.

One of the brightest solutions comes from Cal Trans itself, which suggests, "Hey, why not reschedule the times of the competitions, not the entire rest of the city, for God's sake!"

Makes sense, huh? Tell ABC, which paid \$225 million to televise the major events from 4 to 7 p.m. (California time—prime time back East).

THIRD Day of Competition—1 August 1984. As temperatures soared into the mid 90s and the smog index registered second stage lethal, three English Olympic horses dropped dead today at Santa Anita Race Track, site of the equestrian events.

At Lake Casitas in Ventura County, the rowing competition was postponed for the second day in a row when none of the Olympic rowers showed up for the event. Apparently none of them knew where Lake Casitas—70 miles from the UCLA Olympic Village—was located.

In an unrelated incident, the entire Ethiopian team has left L.A. and gone home. "We abhor the flagrant immorality," head coach Joseph X. Mojumbo told Howard Cosell. Mojumbo was not referring to athletic behaviour on the field but to athletic behaviour on the sidelines, where a large contingent of Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders have been trying to attract the attention of ABC and Twentieth Century-Fox executives.

Taking a cue from Ethiopia, the Pakistani team, whose religion forbids the consumption of alcoholic

Olga Schmidt, a relative unknown from East Germany, won the women's marathon. Miss Schmidt attributed her victory to wearing a portable lightweight oxygen tent

beverages, also withdrew from the Games, protesting the liquor sponsorship of Anheuser-Busch. Replied an A-B Vice President: "Pakistan, for all you do, this Bud's for you!"

IN order to recoup its investment in the L.A. Olympics, ABC plans to sell \$430 million of commercial air time, 3,774 half-minute commercials at an average price of \$110,000 each over 210 hours of programming. The price for a 30-second prime-time commercial: \$215,000.

To give you an idea of how this stacks up against other Biggies, the 1981 Super Bowl currently holds the record for a 30-second spot (\$275,000), followed closely by the 1980 "Who Shot J.R.?" episode of Dallas (\$250,000).

What a bargain.

As of March 1982, the network has already sold \$200 million worth of advertising to such companies as Coca-Cola (\$34.2 million), McDonald's (\$30 million) and Anheuser-Busch (\$20 million).

The A-B sponsorship, by the way, marks the first time an alcoholic beverage will be designated an "official product" of any sporting event. The company needed a special waiver from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to get it.

The thriving Japanese will be represented. Canon has the official camera, Fuji outbid Kodak for film sponsor, Brother can boast the Official Olympic Typewriter, and Datsun has purchased almost twice as much commercial air time as GM—\$17.5 million to \$9 million—even without an "official" designation.

Kodak was a sponsor of the 1976

Obtaining tickets will not be easy and ticket scalping—always a problem at major sporting events—will probably be a big problem in '84 unless there is a worldwide depression

Games and the 1980 Winter Olympics, but the company did not match Fuji's bid for the '84 Games. It is not certain whether Kodak's nonparticipation can be attributed to poor return on the sponsorship dollar in the past, the recessionary outlook of the future or just overpowering Japanese bucks. In any case, the LAOOC is not worried about the economy affecting future sale of sponsorships.

"We already have 20 sponsors out of our projected goal of 30," says LAOOC Vice President of Administration Dan Greenwood. "And we have four more waiting in the wings. So the sponsorship money is virtually assured. Even before the economic downturn, the (sponsoring) corporations saw the sponsorships less as a short-term marketing decision than a 2½-year overall involvement."

Perhaps Kodak is annoyed with the IOC rule banning advertising signs from Olympic sites during the events, after all, its product is rather visual. On the other hand, Levi Strauss, the official Olympic outfitter, is ecstatic about an LAOOC directive allowing the jeansmaker's designers to work closely with the designers of the site service tents "so as to be sure that the colour combinations will be compatible."

SIXTH Day of Competition—August 4, 1984. The severe case of constipation that has plagued many of the athletes since the start of the Games abated today after the Official Olympic Laxative shipped a trackload of its product to the Olympic Villages. Team Physicians have speculated that the medical problem may have been caused by the 500,000 free hamburgers donated to the athletes and Press by McDonald's, the Official Olympic Fast-Food. The Press, of course, eat McDonald's every day and so were not affected.

Though medical problems have subsided, the weather has not improved. The heat wave continues, bringing temperatures of 96 degrees and a smog index of third stage suffocation.

Today also, executives of several Olympic sponsors were served summonses for breaking the no-sign advertising rule. Myron Schlupph, spokesman for group, plans to fight the matter in court. "The committee banned signs," said Schlupph, "but they didn't ban anything else."

The summonses were issued after Minute Maid air-dropped 80,000 cartons of free orange juice into L.A. Coliseum during the short put event. A few hours earlier, a United Airlines jet was seen skywriting the words "Fly the friendly Skies" over the same facility, nearly causing a head-on collision with the Goodyear Blimp.

The executives refused to bow to

IAOOC pressure however, calling the summonses "a blatant attack on American democratic principles" in spite of by "Japanese imperialists."

Good luck if you're planning a trip to the Games in 1984. (Obtaining tickets unless you're an Anheuser-Busch or McDonald's employee) will not be easy and ticket scalping—always a problem at major sporting events—will probably be a big problem in '84 (unless there's a world-wide depression, giving scalpers much reduced leverage). But the IAOOC is not taking any chances. The committee plans to institute a "package deal" linking tickets with transportation and hotel accommodations designed to keep scalping to a minimum. What knucklehead (the IAOOC's thinking goes) is going to shell out two or three grand to fly from Chicago, New York, Paris, Nairobi or wherever, and another six C-notes to stay in a posh I A hotel and then not go to the Games? The answer one suppose is the knucklehead who has to scalp his Olympic tickets to pay for his trip.

TENTH Day of Competition—August 8, 1984. The confusion and unrest that has characterized this year's Games erupted into full scale violence today in the Pasadena Rose Bowl site of the soccer competition. During a semifinal match between Italy and Brazil, Sam the Olympic Eagle was attacked by the San Diego Charger Chicken. Sam was treated for feather and wing lacerations at nearby Pasadena General Hospital. Tempers also flared at two other sites, the Coliseum and the Forum, where members of the surrounding Black and Latino communities marched against IAOOC hiring policies. Of the 14,000 temporary jobs filled for the Games, 12,685 went to white college students on vacation from UCLA, USC, Pepperdine and other L A area schools. The racial turmoil was further exacerbated by the presence of the 12th Infantry Division of the U.S. Marines, which has been here all week as part of the IAOOC's security precautions.

Meanwhile, in the Olympic Men's Marathon, 128 of the world's best long distance runners embarked on the 26.2 mile journey to gold medal glory. Of the 128 starters, 17 were hospitalized for heat prostration, 36 were treated for ozone poisoning, and 53 suffered stomach disorders apparently resulting from a "carboload" party given by the maker of the Official Olympic Pizza.

One marathoner, Armand Gunneldsen of Norway, who has never run a smog until today, got off to a bad start and never made it out of the Coliseum. "I lost da pack ya and could not find da exit," said Gunneldsen, who ran 43 laps around the Coliseum track before realising his mistake. The winner of the race, Alberto Salazar of Eugene, Oregon,

Contrary to the dignified solemnity of previous Opening Ceremonies, Sam the Eagle does a sprightly soft-shoe a la Fred Astaire. So professional is the routine that many speculate it really is Fred and worry that the old hooper may be having a hard time

set a record for the worst time in recent Olympic Marathon history 2:27. But he was not disappointed.

The first Olympic women's marathon also ended in ambiguity when Olga Schmidt, a relative unknown from East Germany, won the race with a time of 2:28:30. Miss Schmidt attributed her victory to wearing a portable lightweight oxygen tent designed especially for her by a crack team of East German scientists.

TWELTH Day of Competition—August 10, 1984. As the temperature rose to 103 degrees and the song index reached fourth-stage genocidal, Black and Latino protestors rioted at the Sports Arena today, overwhelming the 12th Infantry Division of the U.S. Marines and causing damage estimated at \$15 million.

Things were no better traffic-wise, as Sam the Olympic Eagle escaped from the Coliseum and ran amok on the Santa Ana Freeway, causing a seven-car collision and tying up traffic for almost three hours. The real identity of Sam the Eagle was revealed to be Klaus von Klinger, a former mental patient from Napa, California.

Though no political terrorism has emerged during this 23rd Olympiad as feared, there have been sporadic cases of white collar terrorism. At Disneyland executives of Sony, Fuji, Mitsubishi, Cannon, Datsun and Toyota were held hostage for six hours on Space Mountain today by a

The thriving Japanese will be represented. Canon has the official camera, Fuji outbid Kodak for film sponsor, Brother can boast the official typewriter

band of disgruntled General Motors vice-presidents. Bloodshed was averted at the last moment, however, when President Reagan interceded, offering total amnesty to any kidnaper earning over \$50,000 per year.

CLOSING Ceremonies—August 12, 1984. Turah! Turah! The traditional March of Olympic Athletes is about to begin. Here they come now through the north gate of the Coliseum. The procession coils around the stadium and onto the infield grass to form. But wait, hold on a minute, instead of forming the traditional five-circle pattern, as rehearsed, the athletes march into a different formation! ("Hey man, what's going on? Where's the five circles, man? Where's Olivia?")

As Olympic Committee officials turn to each other in flustered consternation, the athletes form what appears to be, yes, it's a fist, a human fist. "Hay man, where's Suzanne? Where's Alan? We came to see Celebs!" And out of the fist comes a straight line, looking more and more like yes, a finger—the traditional, universal, middle finger!

Corporate executives begin to scream and retch in horror. For the first time in his illustrious career, Howard Cosell is at a loss for words. Confusion runs rampant in the ABC control room. "Cut!" "No! We've spent too much money!" "Cut! We can't let the world see this!" "Are you kidding? What are we going to put on instead—Eight Is Enough?" "Who's behind this outrage? Get someone to talk to Howard—quick!" Michel Belloq, a wrestler from Belgium, is hurried up to the ABC commentator's booth.

"I now have with me," Howard begins in his familiar drone, "one of the great wrestlers of this or any time, Michel Belloq. As spokesman for the athletes, Michel, what is your interpretation of the events transpiring right now, in the Coliseum, in Los Angeles, California?"

"You mean the finger—" asks Belloq, who fortunately speaks English. "That's correct, Michel, the finger."

"What do you think it means?" says Michel. "It means, give the Olympics back to the Olympians."

"Is that all?"

"Isn't that enough? What else is there?"

Down in the stadium, the president of Twentieth Century-Fox exults over this latest development. "We'll turn the whole thing into the biggest disaster-epic ever made! Keep the cameras rolling!" Standing by his side, Klaus von Klinger (alias Sam the Olympic Eagle) sighs dejectedly. He has just sold his life story to Fox for \$2 million and his already thinking about getting a new agent. After all, shouldn't Sam the Olympic Eagle get a percentage of the gross?

COUNT DOWN 6

Of mosquitoes and sex tests

THE sensational story of a champion girl athlete who failed to pass a sex test in the Asian Junior Meet in Seoul in August has helped reveal a shortcoming of the Asian Games organisation, although one had heard of elaborate arrangements having been made on the medical front. The story revealed during the Trial Games bears repetition.

The girl, whose sex was questioned at Seoul surprisingly not only managed to return home with a medal but, in spite of the medical report brought back by Milkha Singh, our manager there, actually participated in the coaching camp at Patiala and also broke a very old record at the Trial Games.

The Amateur Athletic Federation of India has now decided to subject our female athletes to sex tests, but already a lot of damage has been done to the image of our sports administration. One had thought that the case of Anasuya Bai at Bangkok in 1978 should have served as a lesson.

The ninth Asian Games is almost here and questions are being asked about another famous woman athlete. The sex test is a simple one, but where were our doctors during the Trial Games? Or were the organisers shy of carrying out such delicate tasks?

It is time we shed our inhibitions. The truth has to be faced, however delicate it may be. Moreover, rules are rules and let us not again be caught violating them. As hosts of the Asian Games we have a special responsibility and image to preserve.

But then in such matters tests should be carried out as soon as doubts are first raised about the

sex of a female athlete so that time, effort and money are not wasted on the coaching of the person concerned.

This also reminds us about the dope tests that have come to occupy such an important place in the organisation of international sports meets. One fervently hopes our arrangements will not be found wanting when the time comes.

One remembers how careful the doctors of Sriram Singh were when they helped prepare him for the Bangkok Asian Games 800 metres. They were careful enough not to allow him to take any of the banned drugs while he battled heroically against his asthma.

On the general level, one was relieved to note that the doctors gave a good account of themselves at the Asian Games Village during the Trial Games, which, unfortunately, coincided with the dengue epidemic that struck thousands in the capital.

The building to house the mini-hospital at the village was not ready in time so one was set up in one of the brand new houses. The doctors and nurses, working round the clock, treated over a thousand patients, many of them victims of the mysterious fever. There were also some cases of malaria.

The appropriate lessons have been drawn from the experience, and before the actual event is held the village authorities, under Air Vice-Marshal Kapur, will, with the willing co-operation of the civic officials of

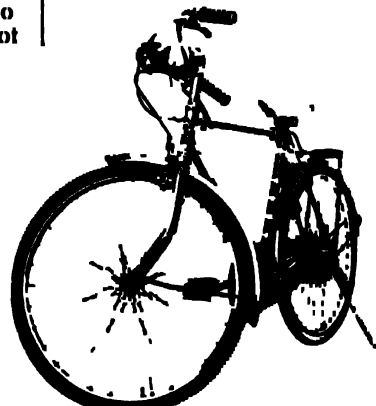
the area launch a determined drive against mosquitoes.

In fact fogging operations have already been intensified in south Delhi, particularly in areas around the village. They are welcome even if you find yourself awakened at an unearthly hour by the commotion. On behalf of all those affected by the fever and others lucky enough to be spared by the winged menace, let's wish the health brigade all luck.

If only a mosquito had bitten Bula Choudhury earlier, the swimming sensation from West Bengal would have remained hidden from the full view of the nation. By the time the little girl was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences with high temperature she had already become a not to be forgotten celebrity.

Among others affected by health problems were such famous athletes as Shivanath Singh and Gopal Sami. Surjit Kaur, the promising teen-aged runner from Punjab, fell out of the women's 3,000 metres and had to be removed on a stretcher. One also suspected her having a touch of the fever.

But champion athletes are rare people. Their heroism, which sometimes makes them ignore doctor's orders, is what sets them apart from ordinary mortals. May they thrive flourish. Indian sport needs them in increasing numbers.



BSA SLR - The Sporty Bike

Regional round-up

DELHI

No football facelift yet

INDIAN football does not appear to be in its best shape with just over a month to go for the Asian Games. True, the probables have not had any competitive games inside the country but they cannot complain of inadequate international exposure. Starting with the Nehru Gold Cup in Calcutta, they had frequent trips abroad, rounding off with that inglorious performance in the Merdeka tournament.

For reasons best known to them, the All India Football Federation chose to keep the probables off the trial Games. And when they came for the final workout at the capital, none of the Asian venues were made available to them for practice. Some work on the other was on at the three stadia—Chhatrasal, Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru.

After a couple of days of running round for a suitable ground to practice, the Indian probables played, for the first time, a match against the Iraqi junior team which was on its way to Kathmandu to play in the Asian Youth Championship. For the visiting youth side it was a satisfying one-one draw, but for our national team, dubbed as East Zone Selection, it was not a game worth remembering. The 15,000 odd who turned up to see the match, left the Ambedkar Stadium with no illusions about India's prospects in next month's Games.

There was no plan involved in the forwards' movement though Bidesh and Shabbu did show their individual brilliance on a few occasions. Thapa looked uncomfortable on the right flank. The medios, Prasun, Prasanta and Parminder, did not make things any better up front. The Iraqis on the other hand, did have a forward in Wamud Yaquob who could dictate the course of the game. Though he himself missed two chances he paved the way for the Iraqi goal which came first. India's reply was Prasanta's goal. After Shabbu's header to a Bidesh floater struck the post, the linkman had to just tap the ball in.

In the first match, the hastily prepared Indian juniors were no match for the well drilled Iraqis who were favourites at Kathmandu. Yaquob netted two of the three goals his side had scored, the other coming through Khalil Ibrahim. The Indian lads could not score but had their moments of supremacy.

At the end of the two matches, the Yugoslav coach of the Iraqi side must have been pleased to see his boys perform, but the same cannot be said of the Indian soccer think tank.

Manmeet corners limelight

HOWEVER, for another Asian probable in another game, things have started improving. The enigmatic Manmeet Singh, one of our bright boys of table tennis, seemed to have established a mastery over senior international Manjot Dua. The two met four times on the local circuit and it was Manmeet all the way. Within a month Manmeet beat Dua three times, the latest coming in the Bal Bhairavi championships. Dua was also not at his fighting best for this match. He had a minor back problem.

Fit or not, Dua can no longer match his younger opponent at his own game. For a player who has survived in the top echelons for over a decade, in this fast changing game, with only one potent stroke—a highly dependable forehand—Dua finds it difficult these days to keep pace with Manmeet who now can finish on the backhand too. Dua could gain only one game and that, too, when Manmeet chose to relax after taking the first two games. Manmeet eventually won 21-19, 21-17, 14-21, 21-16.

In fact, Manmeet found his semi-final against Ravi Vashist a very difficult match to win. He was down two games before he climbed up to take the next three for his 20-22, 18-21, 21-19, 21-9, 21-14 triumph. Ravi, a tenacious fighter, has been in the shadow of the two top players for quite some time. Dua dropped a game to the spectacular but none too consistent, Sunil Vaswani in the other semi-final. The India number seven ran very close in all the four games but surrendered at the crucial moments. The 22-24, 22-20, 24-22, 21-19 scoreline tells its own story.

The high spot of the tournament, however, was the emergence of a new rival to Satbir Singh and Rajan Vaisi in the junior section. Satbir, a bronze medallist at Ankara recently, fell to this fast improving Ravi Sankaran in the final. Ravi has a good chop to wait for his chance to open up and has a good, flat forehand to finish. Satbir, who had lost to Ravi in four games, beat Vaisi in the semi-final. Sanjay Bhargava was Ravi's semi-final victim.

With Indu and Meena Bora not there, the women's singles final was between Tina Sudan, the favourite, and Chanchal Malik. The latter won,

going the full distance. Deepshikha Soni is the girls' champion, beating Anuradha Dhawan.

A CORRESPONDENT

BOMBAY

T.T. at the Khar Gymkhana

AFTER dropping the first two games, Kamlesh Mehta the top seed reeled off the next three games to win the men's singles finals of the Khar Gymkhana Open table tennis tournament. Mehta beat S. Ramaswamy 14-21, 18-21, 21-18, 21-18, 21-14.

Agility and anticipation enabled Ramaswamy to race off to a two nil lead. To add to Mehta's problems the overhead bulbs were throwing the light directly into his eyes when he opted for the high toss serve. But not one to be deterred, Mehta, who won the recent Trial Games at Delhi, took all this in his stride and fought his way to the top.

In the semi-finals, Mehta carried too many guns for S. Kulkarni and triumphed in straight games. The other semi-final between Ramaswamy and Vilas Menon was a keen affair. Ramaswamy banked on speed and stamina to see him through. The first two games were both decided on extra points. And the fact that he lost both these games seemed to have demoralised Menon. Ramaswamy finally won in straight games.

Kashmira Patel won the women's event, defeating Nandini Kulkarni in the finals. The scores were 20-22, 21-19, 18-21, 23-21, 22-20.

Sandeep on the sidelines

TEST cricketer Sandeep Patil will not assist defending champions West Zone in the Duleep Trophy this year. Patil, who also missed the one-day international against Sri Lanka at Bangalore, has a hairline fracture on his right shoulder. Medical opinion seems to suggest that the Bombay cricketer will require three weeks' rest in which case Sandeep will not only miss the Duleep Trophy—which is being conducted entirely in Bombay due to lack of time—but also the Irani Trophy tie which is scheduled to commence on October 21 in Delhi.

During the recent England tour, Patil suffered pain in his right shoulder.

der and on consultation with doctors was told that it was muscular pain only. But the pain surfaced once again in the Madras Test, where Patil got a century, against Sri Lanka. An X-ray showed a hairline fracture in his right shoulder and Patil was advised rest.

Sandeep is keen to be fit for the Irani Trophy as the Indian team is to be selected on the performances of the players in the Duleep Trophy and Irani Trophy. And with Patil out of action in the Duleep Trophy, the Irani tie assumes a lot of importance for Sandeep.

HARESH MUNWANI

CALCUTTA

Winter racing holds promise

THE Calcutta racing season is to get underway sometime in the last week of October. For the past few seasons interest at this racing centre has been on the decline and there is a lot of hope that this will be rectified in the forthcoming winter season.

There was an announcement in some leading dailies of the city that M A M Ramaswamy is sending a string of 41 horses to the centre. This correspondent holds that this is not possible as the rules say that an outstation trainer has got to take the permission of the RCTC if he wishes to run his horses in this centre. However, MAM's trainer Robert Foley has not yet written to the RCTC asking them for permission for a stable. As such it is expected that the horses will be under the care of trainer Haskell David with Foley taking over only a day or two before the races. It is for this reason that one strongly doubts that Ramaswamy will send many horses to the centre. The few horses that should be here in the winter are all three year olds—Birthday Girl, Great Future, Own Objective and Pioneer. These are expected to be entered only for the Classics as it is well known that the great MAM is aspiring to set up an unbeatable record as far as winning Classics goes.

That is not the only piece of good news. The wonder-horse Almanac who completed a Triple Crown with a win in the St Leger is also coming to Calcutta. This Common Land out of Clocked colt who has had a dream year of racing is expected to take a bash at the prestigious Calcutta Gold Cup after which it will take part in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup. This will really be a treat for all racing fans of the city. Almanac, if it does enter, should lift both these races. But one

never knows. Remember the brilliant Own Opinion being beaten by Sun Lion a rank outsider not so long ago.

The presence of the horses of MAM and J P Goenka will not be the only attraction this winter. N Crowther, Rae Guest and, of course, Sandy Barclay may well add the foreign touch in the saddle. Added to this will be the challenge of Robin Corner and the champion rider of the Calcutta Monsoon season Rodney Rodrigues. Incidentally, no photo finish bets will be accepted any more at this centre from the coming winter season. But one thing that can be assured is that this season's winter meeting is going to be a lot of fun.

DEREK O'BRIEN

Footballers from the sky

ALL eyes were glued to the aglistering autumn sky of the city. An Air Force helicopter was slowly hovering westward. Suddenly three tiny spots appeared beside it and started growing larger and larger with every passing second. They were three members of the Indian Air Force para-troopers who were coming down on the East Bengal ground to play an exhibition match with the home team, arranged by the IAF authorities as a part of their golden jubilee celebrations. One by one nine para-troopers successfully landed on the field, some right inside the centre circle and thus treated about 20,000 cheering spectators to a memorable show of military valiance and mathematical precision.

After the para-dropping was over Air Marshal M S D Wollen, PVSM, AVSM, VM, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command was introduced to the para troopers. Later the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mr Jyoti Basu was also introduced to the members of both the IAF and East Bengal teams.

Though the match was of little importance, East Bengal seemed to take things seriously and went into the attack right from the beginning. They were without three of their key players, Kartick Sett, Mihir Bose and Amalraj. But their absence did not affect the team's game much as little resistance was offered by the IAF defenders. As a result, the East Bengal frontliners made some easy inroads into their rival territory and got the first goal in the 19th minute of the first half through Krishnagopal Choudhury.

Their second goal came in the very next minute. Arun Nath utilised a good through pass from Swapan Routh.

However, the IAF players were not entirely on the defensive in the first

half. They also made a few good moves and gave the East Bengal defenders some anxious moments.

In the second session, East Bengal put even greater pressure on their rivals and got three more goals, one of which was scored from a penalty kick, awarded to them when Krishnagopal was roughly tackled inside the box by an IAF defender. Balai took the kick.

In general, the IAF players put up a good display of stamina and teamwork, though they were miserably lacking in skill, without which it is difficult to match a top ranking side like East Bengal. Nevertheless, it must be said that their efforts were praiseworthy and it proved an enjoyable evening of soccer and entertainment, thanks to the efficient organisation of the IAF officials.

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAI



LONGEST SWIMMING RACE Khagen Dutta of West Bengal Police Sports Club won the world's longest swimming race. Held on the Bhagirathi river. This 74 km race was won by Dutta for the fourth year in a row. He completed the distance in 10 hours and thirteen minutes.

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Champions Cup may be played here

IT has been learnt from reliable sources that there is every chance of the Champions Cup hockey tournament being hosted in the city. If this is the case hockey lovers of the city are surely in for a very special treat in 1984. The Indian Hockey Federation were earlier approached by the Bombay Hockey Association to host the tournament. However, the IHF asked for a guarantee money of Rs 20 lakhs from the Bombay Hockey Association. The latter were not willing to host the tourney because of the large outlay involved.

Gurbux Singh who has done a lot for the game in West Bengal then proposed that this was an opportune moment for hosting the Champions Cup in the city. If the Bengal Hockey Association can pay to the IHF the guarantee money then there is every chance of Calcutta playing host.

However, one has serious doubts whether the Bengal Hockey Association will be able to cough up such a large amount of money. The BHA are at present not in the best of positions. Only a few days ago the BHA issued a notice stating that they had shifted their office from Lenin Sarani to a second floor room in Draper Lane. For quite some time the BHA were on the streets and this is, probably, the first sign that they are slowly getting things in order. If this is the case, and along with the guidance of Gurbux Singh there is surely some chance—as little as it might be—for the 1984 Champions Cup to be played in Calcutta.

DEREK O BRIEN

MADRAS

State Bank champions

THE biggest event that held city interest was one being played at Vellore. This was the Champions Club football tournament. State Bank won the trophy beating Integral Coach Factory by two goals to one in the final.

The tournament is held annually for the top clubs in the State. State Bank staged a remarkable rally to win the tie. At half time they were down by a goal scored by Mohandoss in as early as the fifth minute. State Bank struck hard in the last ten minutes of the match. Dinakaran netted the equaliser and then three minutes later Md. Isaac scored the match winner to give a *bakrid* gift for himself and his team.

PARTASARATHY



No Indian reservation, this. At Bangalore's recent vintage car rally, one of the participants added a touch of colour and reality when he entered his Harley Davidson Indian Chief and dressed the part as well.

BANGALORE

Bridge Olympiad

INDIA'S chances of winning the World Bridge Open Olympiad, which is being held at Biarritz in France in October are very bright according to Mr B Krishnan, vice-president of the Bridge Federation of India and captain of the Karnataka team as well as the official Indian team for the tournament.

A total of six teams are being sent from India, but it is the Karnataka team which is the official team by virtue of its wins at the National Championships last year (Gurudutt

Trophy) and the selection trials held this March at Nagpur.

Mr Krishnan, who has represented India in many international events said that the team hopes to finish at least in the "top three, if we have our share of luck". The team consists of six members and one manager. They are B Krishnan (captain), A S. Vishwanathan, K C Mishra, B.K. Saryan, Ningaiah, S K Iyengar and Niranjan Ubayankar as manager of the team.

The tournament will be played on a swiss cum-knock-out basis. There will be three major events—the mixed pairs Olympics—in which two ladies from Karnataka, Mrs Radha Ragunandan and Mrs Renu Rao will be playing with Mr Krishnan and Mr Iyengar respectively, the pairs event and the team event.

SHANTI MOHANRANGAM

How the stumps grew up

Col Rait Kerr is one of the accepted authorities on Laws of cricket. Considered the ablest secretary the MCC has ever possessed, Sir Pelham Warner said, "You can stump him on the laws of cricket." Known for his research and compilation ability, he wrote in 1950 a book "The laws of cricket," which was described by Sir Norman Birkett, in the foreword to the book "as the most scholarly and authoritative treatise."

Sir Norman continued "Let nobody suppose for a moment that a history of the laws of cricket must necessarily be dull reading. The common Law of England is the heritage of the English-speaking world, and its history is one of the most absorbing interest."

But neither Rait Kerr nor any other historian has been able to throw definite information as to how the "stumps" came into being and who discovered it. It is said that the stumps are as old as the game itself. However, there is some kind of recorded evidence, which is as old as about 300 years.

Like this bat, the stumps have undergone many changes in number and dimensions at different periods as the game gained in popularity and importance.

According to some historians, the original object aimed at was a hole, as in golf, and that was considered a deter-



mining factor for the bowlers bowling under-arm along the ground.

At the dawn of the 18th century, the height of the stumps was one foot and width two feet. It is further said "Between the stumps a hole was cut in the ground, large enough to contain the ball and the butt-end of the bat. In running a notch (run), the striker was required to put his bat into this hole instead of the modern practice of touching over the popping crease. The wicketkeeper, in putting out the striker, when running, was obliged, when the ball was thrown in, to place it in this hole before the adversary could reach it with his bat. Many severe injuries of the hands were caused by this rule: the present mode of touching the popping crease was, therefore, substituted for it."

Towards the middle of the 18th century, the height of the two-stump wicket was 22 inches with a single bail 6 inches long. According to Frederick Gale, a historian, there used to be a wicket without any bail for some time. This was introduced to prevent doubts and was then called the "tell-tale."

The third stump was introduced in 1776 and in June 1777 Hambledon played All England in a match in which the wicket comprised three stumps. But one bail continued for more than 40 years. In 1818 another bail was introduced.

The dominance of the bat over the ball was said to be the result of the variation in height and width of the wicket. In 1798, it had been raised by two inches and widened by one inch, about 1818 to 1819 it had gone up to 26 inches and by 1823 its width had grown to eight inches at which it remained for over a 100 years.

Mr G. D. Martinou in his book "Bat, Ball and Wicket and All" says "For a long time nobody thought it worth while laying down how thick the stumps were to be, even after the third stump was added with the object of

preventing the ball being bowled" clean through the chapter house as they used to call it. It was not until 1828 that the laws stipulated that they were to be thick enough to prevent the ball from passing through and 10 years later they had to be of equal thickness.

The existing law says "The stumps shall be of equal and sufficient size to prevent the ball from passing through them. Their tops shall be 28 inches 71.1 cm above the ground and shall be dome shaped except for the bail grooves. The width of the three stumps together called a wicket will be 9 inches 22.86 cm. The bails shall be each 3 1/8 inches 11.1 cm in length and when in position on the top of the stumps shall not project more than 1/2 inch 1.3 cm above them."

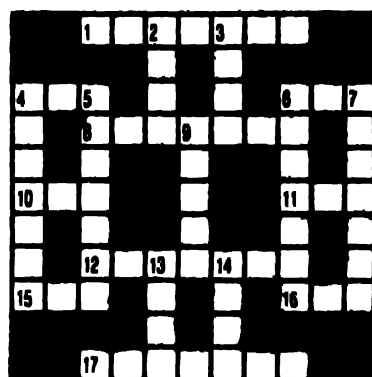
Q A fast bowler is running up to deliver the ball. The fielder at deep line leg is standing in the shade outside the boundary line. The striker hooks the ball, which is a boundary, and the fielder runs at least 10 yards inside the boundary line to take the catch. Is the batsman caught?

A. The batsman is, of course, caught. But the rule makes it obligatory that the umpire should look around and see that all the 11 fielders are within the area. But if he does not notice, he cannot penalise the fielding side for his own fault.

Crossword

AUDAR

168



ACROSS

- 1 The sprint queen of India (4, 3)
- 4 The editor of The Cricketer International, only initially (1, 1, 1)
- 6 Golfing term that has a paternal start (3)
- 8 Country hosting the next Olympics (7)
- 10 Initials again, now of former England cricketer 'Gubby' (1, 1, 1)
- 11 Judokas in practice will usually be found on this (3)
- 12 Indian jockey with a positional name ending with a stutter (6, 1)
- 15 Intelligent spinners usually give the ball much of this, returns (3)
- 16 Common complaint for Pataudi and Milburn, the answer jumbled up a bit (3)
- 17 Poetic name for India's middle order batsman and a fast runner between wickets (7)

DOWN

- 2 When you play squash you automatically— (4)
- 3 One of Pakistan's great hockey players, when contracted, has an egoistic ending (4)
- 4 Young black American with a booming serve and with two circles in between (1, 6)
- 5 One of the countries forming the West Indies (7)
- 6 West Indian spinner now out of the news begins with a cricket equipment (7)
- 7 What cricketers often look forward to (4, 3)
- 9 A boxer's name with political leaning (5)
- 13 Football 'great' (4)
- 14 Another football immortal, this time returning (4)

Smallest: 10-17, Best: 10-14, Pair: 12-12.

Question box

I Sudhir Vadya

R. K. Chatterjee, Uttarpara
Q. Could you please let me know who were the umpires when India played 4 Tests in England in 1979, in Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81?
A. D J Constant and B J Meyer at Birmingham, H D Bird and K E Palmer at Lord's H D Bird and B J Meyer at Leeds and D J Constant and K. E Palmer at The Oval in 1979 M W Johnson and R V Whitehead at Sydney, A R Crafter and R V Whitehead at Adelaide, M W Johnson and R V Whitehead at Melbourne, F R Goodall, and S J Woodward at Wellington, J B R H and D A Kinsella at Christchurch F R Goodall and S J Woodward Auckland

Rajeev Teluk, Adi

Q. Who has scored the highest number of centuries in Tests? How many does Sunil Gavaskar need to break the record?

A. Don Bradman of Australia has scored the highest number—29 centuries in Tests Sunil Gavaskar, with his 25 centuries in Tests, needs five more to break Bradman's world record

Kiran Rudra, Kathara; Prashant Roy Chowdhury, Barbil.

Q. What are India's highest and lowest scores in Tests?

A. 644 for seven wickets declared by India against West Indies at Kanpur in 1978-79 is India's highest total, whereas her 42 made against England at Lord's in 1974 is the lowest total in Tests

Chabi Tanti, residence not stated

Q. Who scored the highest of runs in the Ranji Trophy this season?

A. Sunil Gavaskar scored the highest aggregate of 632 runs in six Ranji matches for Bombay in 1981-82

Kankana Chakraborty Dhanbad

Q. How many centuries have been scored by I T Botham of England against India?

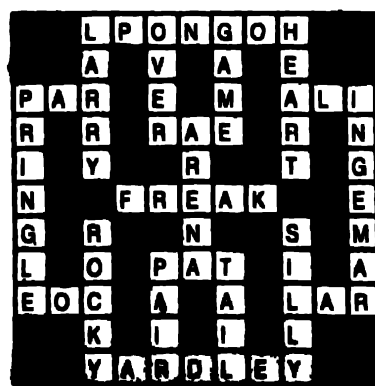
A. Five in 14 Tests against India

Kanheya Lal Tharwal, Kalaheedi

Q. Who were the Indian cricketers who played in all Tests against England in England in 1959?

A. P Roy, Surendranath, S P Gupta and P B Desai

SOLUTION 167



Ranjan Des, Digbol; Babul Menri, Sindri; Shashi Shethar Singh Monghyr, Hari Pager Kherda, Nasik; Arun Kumar, Shorkunda; S.R. Benny, Patna.

Q. Who was the Indian manager in 1959 when India toured England?

A. Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad

Jai Singh Ancharia, Sardarshahr

Q. Name the batsmen from the West Indies with the aggregates of over 5,000 runs

A. Sobers (8,032), Kanhai (6,227) and Lloyd (5,831)

N R Pura, Narasimharajpur, Srikrishnapati Bisoil, Kerapur

Q. What is Roger Binny's first-class cricket record?

A. He has played in 66 matches, 107 innings, has remained eight times not out, scored 2,864 runs, 211 not out being his highest score, 28 92 average, hit four centuries, 14 half centuries, nine ducks, taken 39 catches, 98 wickets for 3,984 runs at an average of 41 50

Sadhan Kumar Mandal, Dhanbad.

Q. Was B S Bedi an off-spinner or a leg-spinner?

A. Bedi was a left-arm slow spin bowler

Susanta Chakraborty, Bardwan.

Q. Is there any necessity of any type of academic qualifications for being the captain of a Test team?

A. No, not at all.

N V Ramdas, Bhadrak

Q. What is the maximum number of balls bowled in an over?

A. As many as 13, consisting of six legitimate deliveries and four no-balls and three wides were bowled in one over by G O Allen of England against Australia at Manchester in 1934

Quiz

I Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with appropriate letters so that the completed word becomes a term associated with the sport noted within brackets:

- 1 T — P — R (Swimming)
- 2 B — — ST (Squash)
- 3 HO — — ING (Cycling)
- 4 — UMP (Motor rallying)
- 5 SL — D — (Rowing)
- 6 — QUA — (Weightlifting)
- 7 S — — P — OAR — (Athletics)
- 8 T — — EL (Boxing)
- 9 P — T — HE — (Baseball)
- 10 — AJ — M — (Karate)

ANSWERS

1 A E
2 O B
3 T S
4 I E
5 A Y
6 K N
7 D B
8 O T
9 C I
10 H I

Q. What is the highest individual Test score for England, Australia, the West Indies, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and South Africa?

Boris Schapiro

I am not sure of my team's line up for the coming event, but last year I played with a promising youngster – T Reese – and we were narrowly defeated in the main teams event. This was a hand where I thought we did rather well.

♠ 10863
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 742
 ♣ KJ764
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ J8
 ♦ A108
 ♣ Q98532
 ♠ K72
 ♥ 1065432
 ♦ QJ9
 ♣ 10
 ♠ J954
 ♥ AK97
 ♦ K653
 ♣ A

At the other table the contract was the same although the bidding had followed a different route. But when declarer led ♠ K from the table, East trumped low. South over-trumped and cashed his two top hearts to discard diamonds from dummy. West ruffed the third round with ♠ Q and cashed ♠ A but now found

Q What is the Test batting record of Vivian Richards of the West Indies?
A He has played 47 Tests 74 innings and was four times not out, scored 4129 runs, 291 was his highest score, aver age 58.98, hit 13 centuries, 17 half centuries, four ducks, 47 catches, has taken 13 wickets for 702 runs and was captain for one Test.

This week's quiz. At love all as South you hold ♠ A J 3 2, ♥ A K J 10, ♦ K 9 3, ♣ 4 2. West deals and opens one-spade and this is followed by two passes. What action should South take? You could give consideration to the respective merits of a no-bid, 1NT and double.

Chess

1 P-04, P-04; **2 R-03, R-03**
3 P-04, P-04; **4 R-03, R-03**
5 R-03, R-03; **6 P-04, P-04**
7 R-03, R-03; **8 P-04, P-04**
9 R-03, R-03

In *The Scotch Bottil and Harding* describe this as a poor move, quoting games with 10 R-03 and 10 Q-K4 that lead to an advantage for White

9 R-03 is regarded as best
 10 R-03, R-03... 11 P-04...

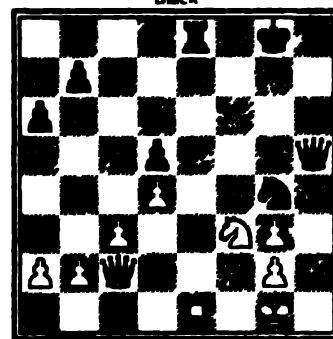
A He played in 13 Tests, 22 innings was once not out scored 984 runs, 137 was his highest score, 46.85 his average hit three centuries four half centuries and two ducks

25 B x R, P - 08;
27 B - K2ch, K - 01;
28 B - 02, P - 04;
31 Q - 02, P - 05;
33 K - 01, Q x NPch;
35 Queen

26 B - 02, P - 104;
28 K - 01, P x P
30 R - 03, Q - 04
32 R - 01, B - 02;
34 K - 01, B - 04

If 35 P-K23 then 35 . P-Q7ch 36 QxP
Q-R8ch 37 K-K2 P-B6ch mates next move
Competition 0540. Solution next week

Black



White

Black to play and win Grade 3 (medium)

Solution to 8530 (Porth - Barcz, Moscow, 1926). (1rk1/pq1p/2pb/2B/1N1P1P1/Pr1R3P/OK1 - Black to play.) The Hungarian grandmaster brought about a decisive simplification by 29 R(R1) x R2, 30 P x R R x R, and White resigned for he would lose the pawn ending after 31 R x R B x Pch 32 R - B2, P - B4.

..... 1208 Solution next week
F. Hestley (First Prize Chess Monthly 1985)
 (1)g4g1(1)p2d1(1)Pp1p22p18/13d2/3P1-
 12/8 - 10 white men; 9 black)
 White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1205 (Chicago) (18283/1P18r/2
K24-K2/p2/p15/244-P8/542 - mate in two)
1 P-K4 (threat 2 R(B7) x B) (a) 1 K-K4
2 R-B6, (b) 1 B-Q1 2 R-K6, (c) 1
RP x P p 2 Q-K3, (d) 1 BP x P p 2
K-K4

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